Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, March 9, 2017 | Read by more than 57,000 people | Price when sold 70p

FLY-TIPPERS RUN UP £2M BILL FOR TAXPAYERS IN ONE YEAR

Dumped fridges in Stanway Road, West Bromwich

FLY-TIPPING is costing taxpayers more than £2 million a year with an average 90 incidents taking place EVERY DAY, new figures have revealed.

In Sandwell alone, the cost of cleaning up the waste cost the council £250,000 last year, while across the border in Walsall the bill topped £350,000.

An investigation by our sister paper the Express & Star found there were 32,569 reports of waste being dumped illegally to councils across the Black Country, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Birmingham last year – a 16 per cent increase from 2012/13.

Organised criminal gangs who offer to dispose of rubbish at a knockdown price are believe to be behind 'industrial scale' dumping seen in recent months. It costs the region's councils £1.8m to remove dumped waste last year and a further £580,000 to investigate offences.

But only £54,706 was recouped through fines at court with authorities taking just 58 prosecutions.

And only 456 fixed penalty notices were issued last year in the Midlands which would have returned between a further £54,000 and £182,000.

It means taxpayers and landowners are left to fork the colossal bill left by fly-tippers. In May 2016, councils were given the power to impose £400 fixed-penalty notices for fly-tipping. But critics say that for criminal gangs – or even ordinary householders – it is worth taking the risk because the fine can be cheaper than hiring a skip for a fortnight. Rising waste charges and moves to fortnightly bin collections have also been blamed.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said travellers, who he likened to 'roving vagabonds' were behind some of the large scale dumping.

The Environment Agency said it is investigation 'a number of' large waste sites in the West Midlands.

Figures from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs show that there were 4,599 fly-tipping incidents in Walsall last year, 4,140 in Sandwell, 3,456 in Wolverhampton, and 824 in Dudley.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ebony is dropped from Voice show

BLACK Country singing superstar Ebony Wilson has been eliminated from ITV talent show The Voice. Ebony, 20, from Smethwick, performed alongside 21-year-old Zoe Hedge, from Bishop's Castle in Shropshire, in Capital B.

Ebony, right, with Zoe

They had previously wowed the judges, especially their coach Sir Tom Jones, and made it through the previous two rounds.

However the duo left the competition on Sunday night after Sir Tom opted to keep singer Nadine following the first live show of this year's contest.

British Heart Foundation chiefs blast heartless thieves

CHARITY SHOPS HIT BY RAIDERS

HEARTLESS thieves broke into two separate British Heart Foundation charity shops in the Black Country.

Both the West Bromwich and Dudley British Heart Foundation (BHF) stores were burgled within just one day of each other, and it is estimated the damage and cost of replacing stolen goods will mean a hefty bill of thousands of pounds.

Bosses are furious as such money could otherwise have funded life-saving research into fighting heart disease.

The West Bromwich Furniture and Electrical store at the Farley centre on the High Street was broken into overnight on Saturday, and the Dudley store on Castle Street was also targeted overnight on Sunday.

The charity is helping police to investigate the burglaries, and are also taking precautions against future break-ins by reviewing the current security measures.

Upsetting

Julie Taylor, BHF area manager, said: "The recent break-ins at two of our stores has been really disheartening for us. It has caused a huge amount of damage to the stores, which will cost thousands of pounds to repair, taking money away from the BHF's vital work.

"It was also a really upsetting situation for all the staff and volunteers who work really hard in the fight for every heartbeat. Slowly but surely we hope the stores can get back to normal."

By Judith Hawkins

Following the break-ins, both stores are appealing to the local community for support. The West Bromwich and Dudley stores are encouraging residents to donate any unwanted furniture and electrical items such as sofas, beds, TVs or washing machines, through their free home collection service.

Julie added: "We absolutely rely on the support of both the West Bromwich and Dudley communities to keep us running and it is only with their generous support that we are able to fund life-saving heart research across the country.

"If each household in West Bromwich and Dudley were to have a quick clear out and take advantage of our free home collection service they would be helping to save lives; it really is as simple as that."

The service can be booked by visiting bhf.org.uk/shops, calling 0808 250 0030 or popping into the store itself.

For more information about BHF shops, please visit bhf.org.uk/shops

Baggies' fans urged to back their pub

Tenants Chris Hughes and Kerry Poole outside The Hawthorns pub

BOING, boing, cheers! A pub which is popular with generations of West Bromwich Albion fans on match days has been saved – but now the new owner is calling on the community to help it survive.

The pub, in Blackheath, was described as 'suitable for a variety of alternative uses subject to obtaining any appropriate planning permission' when it went up for auction with SDL Bigwood on February 23, suggesting that the site could be redeveloped.

But new owner, Steven Hayer, has pledged it will remain a pub so long as it can turn a profit and is supported by the community. Mr Hayer, who bought it prior to the auction for an undisclosed sum, said he had acquired it as an investment.

He said: "The plan is to keep it as a local pub with the community's help."If it can be successful, then that is how it will remain. But obviously, it has to make money to sustain itself.

"If not, then we will have to look at alternatives." He urged West Bromwich fans to keep using the pub.

The pub has previously played host to regular appearances from some of the biggest local names in sport including darts player Jamie Hughes.

SHORTLIST

NHS group in line for three awards

NHS Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been shortlisted in four categories for the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Value in Healthcare Awards.

The medicines quality team at the CCG is in the running for three awards – Improving the Value of Primary Care Services; Pharmacy and Medicine Optimisation; and Training and Development. The CCG has also been shortlisted in the Communication category. Winners will be announced on May 24.

APPEAL

Police plea over taxi driver attack

POLICE are appealing for help to trace a man who is believed to have attacked a taxi driver. The attack is alleged to have happened on February 18 in Smethwick.

The suspect is said to have verbally abused the driver before punching him in the face when asked to leave, before leaving the vehicle in Gilbert Road.

The suspect

Anyone who has any information about the incident, or who may know this man is being asked to call police in Sandwell on 101 quoting reference 20SW/35530F/17.

INSIDE

GETTING A KICK OUT OF SPORTS

PAGE 12

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CONTENTS

RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
AREA FOCUS	14
TICKET	17
TV	20
PROPERTY	26
MOTORING	41
SPORT	43-44

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Shearer becomes patron of Astle charity

Patron – Alan Shearer

FORMER England and Newcastle striker Alan Shearer has become a patron of the Jeff Astle Foundation. The charity was set up in 2015, after the tragic death of Albion legend Astle in 2002 raised serious concerns about the impact of heading footballs on the brain. Shearer, who is the all-time Premier League top scorer with 260 goals, is making a 60-minute BBC documentary called 'Dementia: Football's Silent Shame?'

A charity member took to Twitter to express the group's delight at having the former England legend, and TV pundit, offer his support. @JeffAstleFdn tweeted: "The Jeff Astle Foundation is thrilled and delighted to announce @alanshearer as a patron. Thank you Alan!"

Shearer, in his documentary, is investigating the latest scientific research from around the world into Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), the condition that killed Astle. He said: "I was aware of former football players, legends who I grew up watching, suffering from dementia. Could this affect football and footballers too? The more I read about it, the more I felt this was a subject that could no longer be ignored."

Shearer joins a list of former footballers and celebrities who have pledged their support and become patron of the foundation.

They include, former England goalkeeper Gordon Banks OBE, ex-England and Man United defender Gary Neville and comic and Albion fan Frank Skinner. The aims of the charity is to provide support for sports people, and their families, who are living with dementia and chronic neurological impairment.

The foundation's ultimate goal is to establish a care home for former sports people with these conditions.

Blaze victim woman is found dead in alleyway

A WOMAN has been found dead after a fire in an alleyway between terraced houses in Old Hill.

West Midlands Police confirmed that the body of a woman was found in the alleyway which leads to the house side door on Saturday in Clyde Street. The victim is believed to be a woman in her 30s. It is not being treated as suspicious at this stage.

Two fire crews from Haden Cross and one from Oldbury fire stations attended at 12.05pm.

Neighbour Michael Morgan said: "It is awful news to hear especially when it is so close to home. My thoughts are with all of her family and I hope they're coping. I see news of people dying all the time but no-one expects to be on their doorstep."

Ward councillor Caroline White also said the death was 'devastating'. She said: "It's devastating to hear and its awful news for the family, my thoughts are with them during this time."

Other nearby residents have expressed their concerns following the fatal fire.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said: "It's absolutely awful news. I'm not sure how it happened but I hope all of the family are coping. It must be horrible for them right now."

A police cordon was put in place during the incident but was later taken down. Another resident, who did not want to be named, said: "I saw a lot of police cars in the afternoon but didn't realise what had happened until one of the neighbours told me."

Mobility scooter user died after collision

A PENSIONER was hit and killed by a car after trying to cross a dual carriageway on his mobility scooter, an inquest heard.

Charles Burgess, aged 68, from Oldbury, was hit by a black VW Golf when trying to cross Oldbury Road in Smethwick on November 2 last year.

Black Country Coroners Court heard how Mr Burgess tried to cross while one lane of traffic was stationary, but was hit by the VW travelling in the other lane, driven by Parmveer Singh, 25 – who the coroner said was not to blame.

Mr Burgess was taken to hospital and died the following day from his injuries.

Pc Katrina Hall, from the West Midlands Police collisions investigations unit, told the inquest: "We were called to an accident which happened at around 9.10am. Mr Burgess was on his mobility scooter and tried to cross the dual carriageway. He had driven down from a dropped kerb edge, and was hit by the car. The driver did not have time to react, and Mr Burgess was thrown from the scooter, which became wedged under the bumper of the car."

Incident

He was taken to hospital and died the next day. He first was taken to Sandwell Hospital, and then was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. "The car was seized the following day, and nothing was found mechanically wrong with it."

She added: "The incident was captured on CCTV at a service station. It showed Mr Burgess wait for about 10 seconds at the side of the road before trying to cross when one lane of traffic stopped. He was behind a vehicle which would likely have obscured the view of the driver who hit him. A collisions investigation officer determined the driver would have been travelling at around 35mph."

The speed limit on the road is 40mph. Mr Singh said: "I was coming down the dual carriageway and he came out onto the road. I've not seen him."

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, said: "This is a tragic set of circumstances and there is no blame on the driver's part. Cause of death was left ventricular failure as a result of a pelvic haemorrhage and aschemic heart disease." He ruled it was death by road traffic accident.

Booked up for fun to mark big day

Back row, headteacher Andrea Hill, Councillor Simon Hackett, front, from left, Zhanaya (Year 2) as Harry Potter, Vlad-Mihai (Year 2) as Peter Pan, Oluwatobiloba (reception) as Belle, Conner (Reception) as Scott Tracey, Ethan (Year 1) as Dennis the Menace and Tia (Year 1) as the BFG

SCHOOLCHILDREN and staff from Hamstead Infant School in Great Barr celebrated World Book Day, which took place last week.

The children marked the occasion by dressing up as their favourite fictional characters. The youngsters were also treated to a visit from pupils from Hamstead Junior School who read books to the younger children.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services visited the school on World Book Day. He also read 'What the Ladybird Heard Next' to a reception class.

He said: "It was a pleasure to visit Hamstead Infant School and see what great efforts children, parents and carers and staff put in to mark World Book Day.

"I loved hearing from the children about reading books and was very impressed with their enthusiasm for reading." Headteacher at Hamstead Infant School, Miss Andrea Day said: "World Book Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate books and it was fantastic to see the children and staff in their costumes. The day is a great opportunity to encourage children to discover a love for reading."

The schoolchildren aren't just enthusiastic about reading on World Book Day. They are treated to regular trips to their local library in Hamstead and have benefited from the Booktastic scheme, which has seen all children at the school being given library membership.

Hairstyle led to attacker's arrest

A KILLER who fatally stabbed a friend was identified by his man bun hairstyle.

Alex Habte, from Highgate, Birmingham, stabbed 26-year-old Samuel Simret in the chest after arguing in a coffee shop. Samuel died in hospital two days later and Habte was jailed for manslaughter after CCTV showed a 'man with his distinctive bun hairstyle stabbing Mr Simret in the chest'.

Samuel was stabbed outside an off-licence in Newtown, Birmingham, last August – 45 minutes after the pair were seen arguing in a café. Habte was caged for 13 years on March 2 following the Birmingham Crown Court trial. The 20-year-old was arrested in Leicester three days after the attack and shoes and clothes seized from his home matched those worn by the knifeman on CCTV.

Pub of the year is set to get trophy

THE Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale will present its pub of the year award on March 25.

Members will visit the 187-year-old Waggon and Horses, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, for the 1pm presentation.

Stab wounds victim was carried into GPs' surgery

A MOTHER who died from stab wounds was carried into a Rowley Regis doctors' surgery, an inquest heard.

Black Country Coroner's Court was told that Tina Billingham from Granville Road, Cradley Heath, had suffered two stab wounds, one to the heart and another through her stomach and liver.

Senior coroner's officer, Stephen Binsley, explained that the fatally injured 54-year-old mother was carried out from a van into the medical centre on Hawes Lane at around 3.50pm on Monday, February 6.

"Paramedics attended but after being taken to Russells Hall Hospital she was pronounced deceased. She had two stab wounds, one which had passed through her stomach into her liver, and the other which punctured her heart," said Mr Binsley.

Mrs Billingham, who the inquest heard was divorced and not working at the time, was formally identified by one of her sons, Jack.

The post mortem concluded that she had died from the stab wounds to the chest and abdomen.

Ronald Cooke, aged 54, of Granville Road, Cradley Heath, was initially arrested for attempted murder.

He has subsequently been charged with murder and appeared before Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Senior coroner for the Black Country, Mr Zafar Siddique, said: "I am formally suspending this inquest until the conclusion of the trial, at which point I will decide whether it needs to come back to this court."

M5 roadworks to start in weeks

A MAJOR roadworks scheme which will see the speed limit of a stretch of the M5 cut to 30mph for 18 months will start after Easter. Drivers are facing major disruption while repairs are made to the crumbling Oldbury viaduct.

The stretch between junctions one for West Bromwich and two for Oldbury will be affected.

Alternate sides of the carriageway will be closed, with two narrow lanes of traffic running in both directions on the opposite side. Work will then switch to the other carriageway.

Preparatory work began in January. Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling raised concerns about traffic chaos and has called for the M6 Toll to be free of charge to cut disruption.

Ex-high school pupils' reunion

FORMER pupils of Edward Shelley High School in Walsall are holding a reunion on March 18 at Lyndon House Hotel, on Upper Rushall Street, starting at 1pm. For details contact Robert Sim on 01922 743618.

Mayor leads Hamstead Colliery service

Mayor Julie Webb and guests attend

DOZENS of people braved the cold weather to attend a memorial service to honour 26 miners who died more than 100 years ago.

The Hamstead Colliery Memorial monument is located on the corner of Hamstead Road in Great Barr in memory of the miners who died due to a fire in 1908. The Mayor of Sandwell, Julie Webb, nearby residents and a dozen schoolchildren attended the service on Thursday.

The monument was erected by the Hamstead Memorial Trust in 2008, who hold the memorial service every March. Tony Ward, chairman of Hamstead Memorial Trust, said they built the monument to bring the community together and remind residents of the mine.

He said: "One of the main aims for building the monument was to bring people together in Hamstead because back in the mining days there was a lot of community spirit. I'm interested in mining as a lot of my family including my parents were miners and myself and a few other friends realised there was nothing to mark the fact there was a mine which the area depended on. A lot of income came from the mine but anything to do with the mine disappeared over time.

"A lot of residents were thinking a similar thing so we built the monument in 2008 with the help of the council and local builders. It's been a great success with a lot of people getting involved.."

The mine opened in around 1887 and closed in 1965. Mr Ward added: "It was quite a good turn out and a number of pupils from Hargate Primary School came along to the service. It was a lovely day."

Terrorism hotspot is right on our doorstep

THE West Midlands is one of the terrorist hotspots of the UK, a major new report has warned.

Islamist terrorism has been on the rise in the region over the past 20 years, with a significant proportion of convictions in Birmingham and the Black Country.

The findings are in a new report published today in Parliament by think tank the Henry Jackson Society. The 1,000-page report found that of 269 people convicted of terrorism offences between 1998 and 2015, 49 came from the West Midlands – making it the UK's second major terrorism hotspot, behind only London.

Two convictions came from Sandwell, one from Wolverhampton and one from Dudley, while 39 came from Birmingham, with Hall Green and Hodge Hill highlighted as particular hotspots.

Khaled Abusalama, from Smethwick, was convicted for sending funds and offering logistical support to Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. He was jailed in 2007 for 22 months.

Gathering

Mohammed Saud, from Smethwick, was jailed for 18 years and nine months for being part of the EDL bomb plot in West Yorkshire in 2013. Saud was part of a six-strong gang that planned a bloody attack on an EDL march in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. They failed only because the gathering finished earlier than expected. He was convicted after two of his accomplices, Jewell Uddin and Omar Mohammed Khan, were stopped by police on the M1 as they travelled back to Birmingham.

An IED was found in the vehicle. Usman Choudhary, from Dudley, was convicted in 2015 for disseminating terrorist material. He was jailed for nine months.

And Bilal Zaheer Ahmad, of Wolverhampton, was jailed for 12 years in 2011 for posting a message on a website encouraging the murder of MPs who voted in favour of the Iraq war.

In August last year – a period not covered by the report – seven members of a 13-strong Walsall terror cell were convicted of offences.

Conclusions in the report also revealed that while Islamist terrorism has decreased in London, it has been on the rise in the West Midlands over the last 20 years. The region saw an eight per cent increase in the proportion of individuals living in the West Midlands responsible for UK terrorism offences between 1998 and 2015, according to the findings.

Red House transformation on way

Scaffolding is in place as work gets under way on the mansion building at Red House Park, Great Barr

FOR more than 150 years, it was a mansion which took pride of place in a Black Country park.

But the Red House will soon be houses with work to convert it into living space well under way.

The Victorian country house is currently completely obscured by scaffolding as internal changes are carried out. Developer Gr8 Space came forward after the mansion, in Red House Park, Great Barr, had been left derelict for more than a decade.

Many were uneasy about the prospect of the building being turned into homes but development bosses insisted it was an opportunity to bring it back into use while protecting its historic features.

Queen Victoria had only been on the throne for four years when the Red House was built in 1841 for Walsall MP Robert Scott. It remained a gem of the park for decades but became run-down in recent times.

In 2009, it was estimated it would cost £1.7million to bring the building back into use for the community, leaving development into homes the only realistic plan for its future.

The Red House is set to be turned into eight apartments, while the coach house is also being converted into six three-bedroom homes.

Prices will start from £230,000 for the apartments and from £290,000 for the homes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council focus on apprenticeships

SANDWELL Council is marking National Apprenticeship Week, this week, with a host of events to help people make their first steps onto the employment ladder.

Vacancies, based around business administration and customer service roles, were being advertised at West Bromwich Town Hall where people can attend and speak to companies.

Sessions for youngsters aged 16 to 18 were taking place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 11am to 1pm, at the One Stop Shop in Sandwell Council House.

Signs get new look after work

NEW information signs have gone up across West Bromwich town centre.

Information boards and fingerposts have been refreshed following the redevelopment of several parts of the town centre over the past few years.

Thirteen information points have also been added, covering Carters Green to Overend Street, all featuring a street-finder index and historic images of the town.

Regeneration boss Councillor Paul Moore said: "We needed new signs and the additional information boards are very welcome."

Uni experts help in Duke awards

UNIVERSITY of Birmingham academics helped The Duke of Cambridge launch an award programme to help schoolchildren build character, confidence and resilience.

Aimed at six to 14-year-olds, the scheme draws on the expertise of predominantly ex-Services personnel who work as SkillForce instructors.

The award has been developed with education experts including the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham.

Number of smokers in significant drop

THE number of smokers in Sandwell has declined over the past three years according to health experts.

A downward trend in the level of smoking shows a drop from 22.8 per cent in 2014/15 to 17.7 per cent in 2016/17. Public Health Sandwell says there are currently around 56,000 smokers in the borough compared to 70,908 three years ago.

To find out more please contact Healthy Sandwell on 0800 011 46 56 or text GETHEALTHY to 87007

Anniversary concert

WALSALL Harmonic Male Voice Choir is giving an anniversary concert at the Church of Christ the King in Rushall on Saturday.

It starts at 7.30pm at the Lichfield Road church. Singers are invited to the choir's weekly practices at 8pm in the Chuckery Club, Beacon Street.

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COUNTY NEWS

Poundland's sales up after takeover

THE Willenhall-based Poundland shops chain achieved a rise in sales in the last three months of 2016.

The business, which was bought by South Africa's Steinhoff last summer for £610 million, had revenue of £448m for the quarter.

It is now part of Steinhoff's general merchandise division, which was up 66 per cent to £1.54 billion. Mrkus Joos, chief executive of the group, which also owns the UK Harveys and Bensons for Beds businesses, said Poundland performed 'ahead of the value creation plan'.

Bev's video aimed at pro-EU crowd

A CROWD-FUNDING campaign to reach out to those who want Britain to remain in the EU has been launched by the Lib Dem's candidate for West Midlands Mayor.

Entrepeneur Beverley Nielsen is trying to raise £75,000 to compete with the powerful party machines of her two main rivals, Conservative Andy Street and Labour's Sion Simon.

So far she has raised £435 from 16 donations. In an online video, she says she is operating on 'something of a shoe string'. It can be viewed at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/beverleynielsen

New flights due to Moldova city

BIRMINGHAM Airport is set to welcome another new scheduled airline this summer.

From June, Fly One is offering a new route to the capital of Eastern European country Moldova.

The flights will operate three times a week from Birmingham, using an Airbus A319 with 144 seats each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The flight will arrive into Birmingham from Chisinau at 12.25pm and will depart at 1.20pm.

Liquid lunches can be a works taboo

DRINKING alcohol at lunchtime is considered one of the biggest taboos for West Midland workers, according to new research.

When asked what they believe to be the biggest lunchtime taboos, regional respondents said drinking alcohol on your lunch break (42.3 per cent), eating smelly food (38.5 per cent), eating too unhealthily (30.8 per cent), taking too long on your lunch break (23.1 per cent) and making a mess of shared kitchen areas (21.3 per cent).

Robin's Small show

SOUL singer Heather Small, who was the lead singer in hit 90s band M People, will be performing in the Black Country.

Heather and her band will be in action at The Robin 2, Bilston, on October 14. Advance tickets are £29.50 from the club on 01902 401211.

Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby with the wristbands on This Morning

Phillip shows off the Smile for Joel wristband during a trip to Norway

Singer Jennifer Hudson, who acquired a wristband as a guest on This Morning

Dawn French, was also a guest on the show, and was given a wristband

Football heroes unite in tribute to terror victims

Report by David Banner

FOOTBALL fans had the chance to dine with some of the greats, who gathered to raise funds for the Smile for Joel charity.

Walsall, Wolves and West Brom legends agreed to take part in the fundraiser for the charity founded in memory of terror victims Joel Richards, aged 19, his grandfather Patrick Evans, both from Wednesbury and his uncle Adrian Evans of Bilston.

Patrick would have turned 80 on Saturday while Adrian would have been 51 on the day of the event.

The family were all killed in the massacre at the holiday resort of Sousse, Tunisia, in 2015.

All three were devoted Saddlers fans, and the Dining with Legends event was held at the Banks's Stadium.

Steve Daley, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Don Goodman and Mel Eves were among those who turned out to support the charity which supports families hit by murder and terrorism.

Mourned

The charity has been set up by Joel's brother Owen, who survived the attack at the age of 16, and their mother Suzy.

Speaking at the event, Suzy said: "My dad would have been in his element. It makes me feel guilty being here, knowing they would have loved to be.."

The football community also mourned the loss of referee Joel, who was on his way to enjoying a big future in the game.

Speaking proudly, Suzy said: "There have been so many tributes from the FA for Joel." These include The Joel Richards Legacy Fund, set up to support young players, referees and coaches.

The fundraiser was held shortly after the conclusion of a six-week inquest at London's Royal Courts of Justice on the slaughter, where the coroner ruled all 30 holidaymakers were unlawfully killed, but did not conclude 'neglect' by travel companies played a part in their deaths.

Former Wolves, Walsall and Manchester City player Steve Daley, who was a guest speaker, said: "If you were ever in that position yourself, you would hope that people do the same and rally round to help you."

He praised organiser of the night, Steve Saul, who brought together the sporting legends and around 200 guests. "It's a show of support and togetherness," added Steve.

Smile for Joel won more celebrity support after Suzy and Owen appeared on This Morning following the inquest ruling. Show presenters Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby were pictured wearing Smile for Joel wristbands which he shared on social media. Phillip also put out a picture of him wearing one of the wristbands in the Arctic Circle.

Comedian and actress Dawn French and pop star and The Voice judge Jennifer Hudson were also pictured wearing the wristbands.

Another star-studded fundraiser is planned by the charity in May at Banks's Stadium, a football match featuring celebrities such as Calum Best and Shayne Ward. Tickets are available at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc costing £10 for adults and £5 for children

Footballing elite, past and present, at the event. Back from left, Steve Daley, Chris Marsh, Kenny Hibbitt, Kenny Mower, Joe Mayo, Ally Robertson, Matt Murray, Don Goodman, Ray Graydon, Gordon Cowens, Chris Nicholl, and David Kelly. Front, from left, Richard Sneekes, Neil Rioch, Gary Shaw, Darren Wrack, Owen Richards and Suzy Richards, Mel Eves, John Richards, Geoff Horsfield, and Tony 'Bomber' Brown

Walsall fans, Patrick, Joel and Adrian

Matt Murray with Don Goodman

Kenny Hibbitt with Kenny Mower

Drug user made threat to blow up police base

A DRUG user who called 999 threatening to blow up a Black Country police station was arrested after ranting to McDonald's staff that he was wanted by police, a court heard.

Ryan Jones, aged 31, of Wallace Close, Oldbury, made the malicious bomb hoax call, in which he also threatened the operator, on March 1, and then entering the McDonald's where concerned staff phoned police.

Jones had to be sentenced in his absence by Dudley magistrates on Friday, as it was explained he was in a 'drug-induced psychosis'.

Prosecutor Mrs Maxine Jarrousse-Jones said: "He spoke to a female operator naming himself as Ryan, and said 'I'm going to blow a hole through [Oldbury] police station. He continued to be abusive and said he was going to assault the police and the operator herself."

The police were called a during interview Jones admitted to being the man on a recording of the hoax call and said that he had been under the influence of drugs at the time.

Jones pleaded guilty through his solicitor to charges of bomb hoax, communicating false information and failing to provide a sample for a Class A drug test. Explaining the absence of her client, Defence solicitor Mrs Dawn Foxall said: "He has been extremely disruptive downstairs [in the cells]. To bring him up in court is going to cause more disruption and more distress."

She said that given Jones' mental state, she believed the call was made because he 'was unwell rather than maliciously'.

Magistrates decided to sentence Jones to a 12-month community order, with a 25-day rehabilitation activity requirement. He must also pay a £85 victim surcharge.

Probe is launched after fall tragedy

A MAN died after falling from a flat window in Birmingham.

Police have launched an investigation after the man in his 50s died on Monday night. He was found with serious injuries at around 9.55pm on Stratford Road, Sparkbrook and later died at the scene.

Officers received reports the man fell from a window. West Midlands Police said it was examining CCTV in the area to try and establish what happened. The force said the death was being treated as unexplained.

Art show reviews 125 years of culture

AN exhibition celebrating Walsall residents' favourite works of art, has gone on display at the New Art Gallery to mark the town's public art collection's 125th anniversary. The voting was held online and via postcards at the gallery.

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£4.5m Lotto grant hope to fund big park revamp

SANDWELL Council is to put in a £4.5 million bid for a special Lottery grant to help to restore the many historic features in West Smethwick park. The council has far-reaching plans to improve the park and to restore the James Chance Memorial, the gateway entrance, drinking fountain and the bandstand.

The plans, which were approved by the cabinet, also include improvement works to the boathouse, the Airmen's Memorial and the building of a new community pavilion.

The proposal, which will be backed with £650,000 support from the council and about £30,000 from volunteer contributions, have been sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund as an application for a Parks for People grant.

Councillor Steve Eling, Leader of Sandwell Council, said: "This is a very exciting project for this much valued park. It's a very well-used park and people can look forward to significant improvements if this bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is successful.."

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure said: "The major cuts in council funding have reduced the chances of restoring the park. When the work has been completed it is hoped that the improvements will attract more people to the park and reduce concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour."

He added that public consultations had shown strong support for the proposals and a call for more family events and community activities to be held in the park.

75pc get first choice of school

NEARLY 75 per cent of parents have secured the first choice of secondary school in Sandwell for their children.

More than 4,200 children have got a place at secondary schools across the borough. Three in four parents, or 74.5 per cent, secured their first choice of secondary school, while nine out of ten, or 90.5 per cent, were offered one of their top three preferences.

The new figures were welcomed by council leaders, who said the authority has 'worked hard to meet demand'.

Children's services chief Councillor Simon Hackett, said: "It's good news we are offering such a high percentage of parents their preferred choices. We are committed to expand our existing schools to make sure more parents get their preferred choice in the future."

Town Hall gig for folk star Eliza

LEADING folk musician Eliza Carthy is coming to Birmingham Town Hall on November 18.

The singer and fiddle player and the 12-piece The Wayward Band are touring new album Big Machine.

Pulis shows team 'how lucky they are'

Tony Pulis seen with his players at the Donna Louise Children's Hospice

TONY Pulis took the whole Albion squad to a Staffordshire hospice this week to 'show them how lucky they are'. The Baggies head coach is a long-term supporter of the Donna Louise Children's Hospice in Stoke.

The charity supports children with life-limiting conditions, and he has raised thousands of pounds for them over the past 10 years.

He got involved with the Donna Louise Trust when he was Stoke manager, and has run the London Marathon, cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and rowed from London to Paris. On Monday, he took the Baggies squad to the Hospice for a tour of the facilities and to learn more about the charity, which looks after 200 children and their families.

"As footballers, we live in a bubble," said Pulis.

"We're oblivious to what really happens in the real world at times. (I was) just showing the lads and showing them how lucky they are.

"To be able to give support and help in any way, shape or form is just fantastic for us, this group of players and all the teams I've been at."

Mother's pride after son Kye, 7, in life-saving call

A MOTHER has told of her pride after the actions of her quick-thinking son, aged seven, saved her life.

Single mum Leanne Smith collapsed unexpectedly at her home on Barlow Road, Wednesbury, on the morning of Thursday, February 23.

The next thing the 27-year-old remembers is waking up with her son Kye, aged seven, and daughter Lacey, four, surrounding her alongside paramedics, while her youngest daughter Lexi, aged one, was upstairs blissfully unaware of the drama unfolding.

Leanne was rushed to Walsall Manor Hospital where the full terror of what happened hit home.

Doctors told her she had suffered a severe kidney infection which had led to sepsis. They said if it had not been for brave Kye ringing 999 and following advice from the operator to put his mum in the recovery position then she could have been dead within hours.

Leanne said: "I am so proud of my son. I am absolutely over the moon with him for what he did.

"If it weren't for him I would not be here. He knows that I have told him that."

Minute

She added: "I was absolutely petrified when they told me what it was. Obviously I had all sorts of things running through my mind. But since it has happened it has just been a wake-up call. I do a lot with my children anyway but now I just want to make the most of every minute with them."

Despite Leanne pouring praise on Kye, who goes to Albert Pritchard Infant School in Wednesbury, she also has herself to thank.

A few years ago she made the conscious decision to tell him exactly what to do in an emergency. Now that has paid off and she has urged other parents to do the same.

Leanne said: "As a single mum I was worried if anything happened to me my children they wouldn't know what to do. Your kids are your priority and you always want to make them safe but they are not safe if you are conked out on the floor.

"So from the age of four I told Kye my full name, date of birth, our address and to how to ring 999 on my mobile phone." She added: "I would say all parents need to tell their children what to do in an emergency as early as possible."

A West Midlands Ambulance spokesman confirmed one ambulance was called to Barlow Road, Wednesbury at 9.57am to attend a medical emergency. He confirmed the crew treated a woman in her 20s and took her to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Kye Smith aged seven, with his mother Leanne, who he found collapsed, and then dialled 999

Picking up pace with litter events

LITTER picking sessions in Sandwell kicked off on Monday to help clear up hotspot areas of the borough.

Community charity Litter Watch and Friar Park Millennium Centre is organising the litter picks at the start of every month between 10.30am to 12.30am.

The first litter pick coincided with the start of Sandwell's 11th annual Big Spring Clean campaign.

It focused on Bassett Road, Carrington Road and Carisbrooke Road in Wednesbury.

Litter Watch will provide all equipment. Refreshments will be provided at the end of each litter pick.

Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "It's great to see community organisations joining forces to help look after the local area and I want to thank all the volunteers who are taking part in these events in Friar Park and across Sandwell during this year's Big Spring Clean."

For more information, call Harbans Ubhi at Friar Park Millennium Centre on 0121 556 0139 or Litter Watch on 0121 544 3916.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Waterway cleared to prevent floods

THE Environmental Agency is today, Thursday, expected to finish essential work to clear vegetation from an overgrown waterway to prevent flooding.

Crews began work last Thursday along the route in Oldbury. The agency says plants and shrubs need to be cleared from the side of the route to prevent flooding taking place which could damage the environment.

Tim Walters, spokesman for the Environment Agency in the West Midlands, said: "Effectively we are clearing overgrowth from slabs that are located either side of the course."

Caravans leave store car park

TRAVELLERS have moved off a car park outside a shopping centre and Tesco supermarket in West Bromwich. Rubbish was left behind by the group which had parked up at New Square shopping centre late last Monday.

Centre bosses confirmed the group had left the car park, off Congregation Way, by 6pm on Tuesday.

Around five caravans had parked up at the centre prompting security staff and bailiffs to take action.

Centre manager Steve Burr said: "Any rubbish was left tied up in a couple of black bags."

MP backing for YMCA's scheme

A YMCA scheme which provides a safe home for for vulnerable youngsters in the Black Country has been backed by an MP.

Rowley Regis MP James Morris has hailed the impact of the Open Door Project, which has given more than 18,000 nights of support to young people who need accommodation.

He said: "Without a safe home and the guidance of caring, responsible adults many of these young people become jobless and homeless."

Woman hurt after collision at junction

A WOMAN in her 50s was injured after being hit by a car in Wednesbury.

Ambulance services were called to the junction of Hydes Road and Brunswick Park Road at 10.51am last Tuesday.

Hydes Road is one of the busiest roads in Wednesbury.

One ambulance, a doctor and a community paramedic went to the scene.

The patient had lower back pain and was sent to Sandwell Hospital after refusing pain relief at the scene.

Teen tennis sessions

A WEEKLY touch tennis class for young people is launching in Wednesbury. Those aged between 14 and 18 can take part at Wood Green Academy's sports hall. Free sessions of the sport, a modified version of tennis with foam balls and smaller rackets, are on Wednesdays from 5.30-7pm.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

WANTED: School-run parents top crime list

I'VE never been to the borough of Havering, east London, but it sounds like a jolly good place to live.

While the rest of Britain struggles with anti-social behaviour and reduced policing budgets, it seems that Havering is doing rather well.

Indeed, crime is obviously so low, and the police and council coffers so awash with cash, that they have decided to crackdown on the No. 1 law-and-order issue in the borough: stopping parents from taking their kids to school by car.

No, not just parents parking on double yellow lines or causing an obstruction. All parents. Even the ones who take great care not to inconvenience others.

The local authority has declared "exclusion zones" around four primary schools in the borough, which will be patrolled by CCTV cameras to catch any parents dropping their children off in the vicinity of the school.

Police officers, traffic wardens and PCSOs will also be asked to keep an eye out, lest any crafty parents manage to give the cameras the slip. Letters have been sent out warning parents they risk a £1,000 fine and criminal record if they do the school run. Talk of a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Now you might not be too concerned about what happens in east London, but it's amazing how this sort of lunacy can gain traction once the PC mob gets behind it. Don't be surprised if it reaches the Black Country a few years down the line.

Of course, at this point, somebody usually chips in "how would you like it if somebody blocked your driveway," and the answer is, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't.

But causing an obstruction is illegal anyway, and I'm sure nobody would object to the Boys in Blue or the council dealing with that. But for people who drive and park their cars responsibly, why is it anybody else's business how they take their kids to school?

No doubt there are some people who just don't like having other people's cars outside their homes at all, even if they are correctly parked. But that, I'm afraid, is what happens when you buy a house opposite a school . So you don't have to drive your children to school.

Of course, there are also the fanatics who believe the school run really is a crime, and love nothing more than local government flexing its muscles to "change people's behaviour." People who have no idea about the reality of being allocated a school two miles from where they live, and then having to drive another 10 miles to be in work for 8.30.

Incidentally, the orders have been brought in using a Public Spaces Protection Order Act, introduced by David Cameron's government to tackle serious crime such as drug dealing. I wonder how Mr Cameron's kids get to school.

As Churchill would have said, the vote was won

Prof Armand Leroi claims The Beatles weren't great influence on pop music

Roy Hattersley –comparison between Brexit and Henry VIII's Reformation

Winston Churchill – one vote can be sufficient to secure a majority

'Tyranny' – how can they justify slogan?

A NEW slogan – straight out of fairyland – has been coined by those disgruntled politicians who opposed, and still do so, the prospect of the UK pulling out of the European Union. It is: "The tyranny of the majority." Call me obdurate, or whatever you like, but I cannot for the life of me see how this mantra can be justified. A referendum was held and it was won by the Brexiteers. And as Sir Winston Churchill once said, if one vote will secure you a majority, then that is sufficient.

MEANWHILE, on the Sunday programme (Radio 4) Roy Hattersley made a neat comparison between Brexit and Henry VIII's Reformation nearly 500 years ago. He recalls that King Henry was irritated by the Pope, dissatisfied with the deal he was getting from Europe and was ruling over an insular race who 'consider ourselves better on our own'.

AND while so many commentators bang on about 'toxic Corbyn', few of them highlight the quiet appeal of Theresa May. She voted to stay in the EU but is now pushing ahead with Brexit because that is what the people wanted. You don't often meet a politician like that and I suspect the Tories under May won a by-election at Copeland that the Tories under Cameron would have lost.

IN a column for Waitrose magazine, John Humphrys refers to a 'hilarious exchange' between President Trump and Humphrys' old BBC colleague Jon Sopel. In truth, it was not so much hilarious as shot through with cold contempt on both sides. Sopel and Trump clearly have no time for each other.

SOMEBODY opens the wrong envelope in Hollywood and it dominates the world's TV, radio, newspapers and internet for the next two days. No, I don't get it either.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

PROFESSOR Armand Leroi is the evolutionary expert who claims The Beatles were not a great influence on pop music. He may well be right. The Fab Four were mould-breaking and magical, yet they were not widely imitated. But so what? Diamonds do not influence rubies but that doesn't make diamonds any less brilliant.

MEANWHILE, if you're old enough, cherish the memories. Professor Leroi is 52 so he could never have known that first semi-spiritual encounter with Sergeant Pepper, or the opening chords of Strawberry Fields Forever. We Sixties kids were transfixed by the genius of The Beatles who took us on a brief but unforgettable journey from Love Me Do to Let It Be. Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, yeah, yeah, yeah.

BY coincidence, on the day this week that Tunisian police were accused of cowardice during the Sousse attack which left 38 people dead, our own anti-terror cops were on exercise at the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley. What a contrast. In Tunisia, a rag-bag assortment of fainters and panickers took as long as possible to get to the scene. In England, a tough, disciplined squad tooled up like Robocop seemed utterly fearless in the face of the enemy. Or so we would like to think.

A READER wondered why the NHS paid more for paracetamol than the rest of us pay in supermarkets, so he wrote to the Department of Health. Here's part of the department's reply: "Comparison of the margin found in the margin survey with the agreed target margin as part of the contractual framework determines whether there need to be any adjustments to payments made to community pharmacies." Sir Humphrey is alive and well.

"SURE, I know there are bigger issues, but microaggressions are a reality of the everyday existence of many people of colour." That anonymous email by a Cambridge student allegedly offended by "cultural misrepresentations" on his college menu, including Jamaican stew and Tunisian rice, will surely be recorded in the official history of the Snowflake Generation. How blissful your life must be if you have time to take offence at stew being mislabelled by the dinner ladies.

ONE account of this spat tells us that some students responded "with humour," including the one who texted: "Don't get me started on the Yorkshire puddings." But how can we be sure it is humour? For all we know, some Snowflake undergraduate from Harrogate could genuinely be sobbing him/her/gender-neutral self to sleep every night at the wicked misrepresentation of his county's delicacy. We live in fragile times.

INCIDENTALLY, the Cambridge college in question is Pembroke. How long before the Welsh take up arms over this geographical misappropriation of one of their towns?

MEANWHILE, back in cyberspace. . . . A reader tells me how his internet provider locked his account when he failed to change his password. And why did he fail to do so? Because the company's emails instructing him to change the password had all been dumped in his spam basket, by the company's own software. First, we put our letters in your bin. Then we punish you for not reading them.

TALKING POINT

I'd like to Believe in Better from advertisers

EVERY day, I'm being followed by someone, and it's getting a bit tedious. No, it's not through social media or, thankfully, in the street. The person I'm talking about is called Winston, as in the wartime prime minister whose voice is so closely linked with the principles of defiance you feel like standing to attention whenever one of his speeches is featured on TV or radio.

My 'stalker' answers to the surname Wolfe . . . the character who pops up in adverts putting the fear of God into everyone but who turns out to be a goody two-shoes. Trouble is, he's not really welcome in my world, as I just cannot get some of his spoken lines out of my head. "So, you're a landlord now; a property magnate" is permanently lodged in my brain.

In music terms, they're known as earworms: melodies and lyrics which can float away into the ether as quickly as they infiltrated your conscience. In the advertising world, they're obviously designed to catch the attention of the viewer or listener in the shortest time possible, and they're an absolute menace. And there is an array of catchphrases that could give Wolfe a run for his money.

Take, for instance, "For The Journey", "Play Makes It Possible", "Because You're Worth It", "Believe In Better", any one of which could be swirling around in your head right now.

It's not that these lack wit or imagination. Quite the contrary. Try these for size: "It Does Exactly What It Says On The Tin", "Every Little Helps", "I'm Lovin' It". All can be heard in all kinds of places up and down the country every day, having become convenient ways of saying something in just a few words.

Mind you, even in Adland, there can be some moments of confusion. On the radio, the line "You Do The Maths" rounds off its advert with a phrase which needs no explanation. But in the television version, it's . . . nowhere to be heard. The effect is like falling off the end of a supermarket conveyer belt.

Which brings me back to Winston Wolfe and that poor chap who just wants to get on with his decorating. Anyone with a keen ear for voices will have noticed that Mr Wolfe's "victim" sounds nothing like the bloke in the radio version. "It's just my wife's old flat," the DIY-er warbles, confirming the characters are one and the same, even if played by different actors.

It's enough to make anyone ring up a painter and decorator to get the job done quick without the tough-guy interruptions. But does any of this really matter? Perhaps when all of this gimmickry has run its course, there might be a return to those halcyon days when the likes of "Put a tiger in your tank", "The appliance of science" and "It's good to talk" were expressions that summed up an emotion ahead of the capabilities of the merchandise being promoted.

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Blair's intervention sparks questions

I THINK that Tony Blair's recent intervention on the Brexit result raises many questions.

1 - If we have a second referendum and still vote leave, do we vote again until we get it right?

2 - If we vote remain by a narrow majority, will we need a third, best out of three?

3 - Tony Blair says that some people who voted leave have since changed their minds. But how many remain voter's have also changed their minds?

4 - What do the many Labour voters in areas like my own, Sandwell, who voted to leave feel about Mr Blair's comments?

5 - What happens if a Labour Government is elected by a slim majority, and say a former Conservative Prime Minister points out that they have only been elected because the Scottish, Welsh or N Ireland voter's swayed the vote England voted Tory. So we should rise up and challenge the result?

6 - Does he have any respect for British democracy, or just the European version?

ALAN J HUNT
West Bromwich

Greys are scapegoats

OVER the last few days, grey squirrels have been scapegoated again for the decline of the red squirrel.

Horrific plans to kill grey squirrels have even been announced. But it is people who are largely responsible for their decline. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it was red squirrels who were being treated as 'pests' and slaughtered in their thousands. A series of harsh winters and disease reduced numbers even further.

According to a Bristol University report, there is little evidence that killing grey squirrels is the best way of conserving red ones.

There are many humane ways of deterring unwelcome animals, including squirrels, and free advice sheets can be ordered from Animal Aid by phoning 01732 364 546 or emailing info@animalaid.org.uk

ISOBEL HUTCHINSON
Animal Aid

Lessons on life must be mandatory

READERS may be aware of a growing campaign for sex and relationships education (SRE) to be introduced as a mandatory part of the school curriculum.

Like me, they may indeed be surprised to learn that this vital part of a child's education is not currently compulsory in all schools.

When children are – whether we like it or not – exposed to highly sexualised imagery, online pornography and the pressures of social media, it's vital for them to learn about sex and relationships at school.

Not simply the physical or biological side, but also the emotional and social aspects of what a healthy relationship looks like.

We should be encouraged by research recently released by Plan International UK which showed that more than eight in ten people supported mandatory SRE across all main school types, including in our area.

I've recently written to the local MP to urge them to support this in Parliament.

KATIE BENBOW
Birmingham

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Bercow should be backed over Trump

YOUR correspondent Alan Etheridge, who shares the same name as UKIP's Bill Etheridge, complains about John Bercow's opposition to Donald Trump's impending state visit.

I actually salute Mr Bercow for standing up for what is right. Donald Trump is a thin-skinned and dangerously mercurial figure who despises everyone different to himself. He mocked a reporter for being disabled. He called Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren 'Pocahontas' because of her native American heritage. Mr Bercow may be the speaker of the House of Commons but we live in a free and democratic society and he is entitled to express his opinions freely as everyone else.

Mr Etheridge's analogy to football referees merely compares apples with oranges. Nigel Hastilow, in calling Mr Bercow a twerp and resorting to petty insults, shows he has lost the argument. Right-wingers talk about free speech while doing their best to stifle it. I call that hypocrisy.

SEAN FLANAGAN
Aldridge

Plaudits for town Odeon

IN my humble opinion when they opened the Odeon cinema at New Square, it was the best thing to happen to West Bromwich.

For the silver screen deal for over-55s, every Tuesday and Thursday, we pay three pounds, there is a lovely seat to sit in, tea and coffee and it's free and you can take it in with you while you watch the film.

The staff are lovely – well done the Odeo, we can lose ourselves for two hours, it's great.

I love it have seen some really good films.

J RICHARDSON
West Bromwich

Fired up for mobile tipples after tender transformation

THIS fire engine is not all that it seems – as it has been converted into a mobile pub. It once proudly served in the West Midlands Fire Service fleet in Smethwick.

But the Dennis fire engine has since been transformed into a specialist bar for craft beer. The water tanks have been ripped out and replaced by a road-going beer cellar, and the sides are equipped with six taps that allow customers to pour their own drinks.

Report by Alex Ross

It now travels around the country, flaring up people's enthusiasm for microbreweries and fire engines.

The idea was the brainchild of Mel Evans, 50, and Richard Brown, 52, business partners in The Tipple Truck.

Mel, a shopping centre opening manager from Sutton Coldfield, said: "It's something completely different and we're really proud of it.

"It's great fun, and it gets people talking. They like to see the fire engine up close as well as sample all the beer, so it really does keep them happy.

Heartbroken

"We've tried to keep most of it as original as possible. It's mostly the inside that's changed, but the cab and the front are still the same, and it's still a beautiful red."

The idea came to them when they were looking to get more microbreweries and craft beers to outdoor events.

As they discussed the difficulties of transporting kegs to sites in a local pub, another customer overheard them and offered a fire engine out of the blue.

To Mel and Richard it seemed a perfect idea, but they were almost left heartbroken when they found out someone had beaten them to it.

Mel said: "We started off wondering whether we should buy a pub, but we thought going mobile would be a lot better. Then we came across the self-pour system, and that seemed the best idea. The problem was, we didn't really have a suitable vehicle, until one day we were talking about it over a drink and a guy in the pub asked if we wanted a fire engine.

"It was entirely strange, and really fantastic. It turned out a group of students had bought the fire engine with the idea of doing the same thing about two years ago. We were gutted when we thought someone had beaten us to it. But they hadn't been able to get it off the ground, as they hadn't made the fire engine road legal.

"So we got in touch with them to ask about it."

They eventually acquired the fire engine for a mere £6,000 in September. The price was greatly reduced, as the vehicle needed plenty of work. The Tipple Truck was launched at the NEC in Birmingham on February 9. It works with an 'Oyster card' system, in which top up credit on a card, take it to the pumps, and then use it to choose their drink.

Customers only pay for what they pour, meaning they are able to sample everything that is on offer before taking a larger amount of one.

Mel Evans and Richard Brown came up with the idea for the Tipple Truck, which once served in the region's fire service

The water tanks have gone, replaced by a beer cellar

Mel pours a pint from the transformed former fire engine

Protest over rights of staff at food group

MORE than 100 workers from a Black Country firm protested in a row over employees' rights. Unite's acting national officer has hit out at the management of 2 Sisters Food Group.

The union claimed that in the last two months new management has 'unpicked many years of established and stable industrial relations' at the five Unite-recognised plants across the Midlands.

The company, which employs around 1,500 in the region, supplies food to major supermarkets including Tesco. It has plants in West Bromwich and Smethwick. A demonstration was held on Monday by workers outside Tesco in West Bromwich's New Square shopping centre. Company bosses said all of the allegations made against the firm, including claims it used covert CCTV to spy on workers, were 'untrue'.

Sulinder Singh, Unite equality officer, said the aim of the protest was to urge Tesco to rethink its relationship with 2 Sisters.

Worker Zane Simscone said: "I'm disappointed with it all. We're just trying to make things better." A spokesman for 2 Sisters said: "We note the protest planned by Unite members, but do not understand its purpose or what it is trying to achieve."

Lots of gift ideas at church hall craft fair

A CRAFT fair will be held at a Wednesbury church hall. The Lovingly Crafted club from St Bartholomew's will be holding the event on March 25.

It will take place at the hall at the bottom of Church Hill next to the British Legion from 1 to 4pm. Admission is 50p and all proceeds will go to the church projects. There will be a wide variety of gifts for Mothering Sunday and Easter on sale.

Jail for drug dealer pair caught after police chase

A DRUG dealer who drove on the wrong side of the road and mounted a pavement in a desperate attempt to avoid being caught with cocaine and heroin has been jailed.

Arfeen Saleem was found with a Kinder Egg containing around a gram of cocaine when he was caught.

His accomplice Hafeez Khurshid threw 10 wraps of heroin out the window during the police chase through the streets of Smethwick. The pair were spotted in a BMW by officers on patrol on Lodge Road at around 1pm on April 28 last year. A woman was seen leaning into a window of the car, arousing their suspicion, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

As police went to approach the vehicle, reckless driver Saleem, aged 24, sped off.

Erratically

He hit speeds of around 50mph on 30mph roads, veering onto the wrong side of roads to overtake other vehicles, clipping the back of a van as he did so.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, told the court: "The defendant was driving erratically, 50mph in a 30 area."

Saleem was in no mood for hanging around and took to the pavement as his path was blocked by queuing traffic at the junction of Holly Lane and Manor Road, also driving over the edge of front gardens, Mr Phillips said.

The driver was eventually brought to a stop when he became trapped on Hall Road, which was flanked by parked cars.

The court heard how Saleem and Khurshid, 22, had turned to dealing drugs after getting into debt with their own suppliers.

Saleem and Khurshid, both of St Paul's Road, Smethwick, pleaded guilty to possession of heroin and cocaine with intent to supply and were jailed for 27 months and 24 months respectively. Saleem also admitted dangerous driving and was banned from the roads for two and a half years.

Charity in awards success

Chief Executive at The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, Monica Shafaq at the awards with trustee and former Baggies star Darren Moore

A BLACK Country health and well-being charity is celebrating after being included in the prestigious '100 Best Companies to Work For 2017' for the third year running.

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group, based in West Bromwich, featured at number seven on the list in the not-for-profit companies' category compiled by The Sunday Times.

The charity, which is known for its work in providing services to improve health and wellbeing, were ecstatic to be recognised in the independent survey.

The annual awards recognise organisations that not only exceed in their own field, but also aim to build a positive workplace and regularly demonstrate commitment to their staff.

Group chief executive, Monica Shafaq, said she was 'overjoyed' to have achieved a place on the list.

Trustee and former West Bromwich Albion FC star Darren Moore said: "To be recognised by Best Companies for the great work we do makes me extremely proud."

Last year the charity also met with prime minister Theresa May to discuss mental health and suicide.

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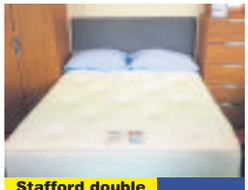

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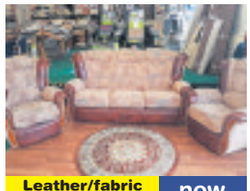

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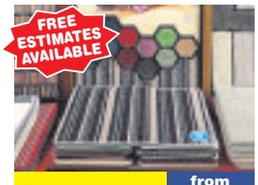

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I wasn't being brave, I feared for children

IT was just a normal Friday afternoon, with the school run in full swing.

But events were about to take a dramatic and very sinister turn as three men from the Black Country brought terror to a quiet town.

The gang of men – who were later jailed for a total of more than 17 years – tried to bundle a woman and her three children into a car before speeding off.

Mohammed Anser Khan, of Whitehall Road, Tipton, Muserat Khan, of Greets Green Road, West Bromwich, and Ateek Khan, of Oak Road, West Bromwich, all admitted conspiracy to kidnapping at Shrewsbury Crown Court in August.

Police officers described the attack in Oswestry, at around 4pm on March 4 last year, as ' terrifying' for the woman and children. But the men were captured thanks in part to the heroic role played by a passer-by, who has now been awarded a High Sheriff's Award.

Loraine Duncan, aged 50, used her car as a blockade to the getaway car and she has spoken for the first time about her courageous actions.

Mrs Duncan, who works at the town's orthopaedic hospital, said: "One of the men had a crowbar and it was then that I realised something was very wrong. I saw the lady being manhandled and I thought if I could block their car it may stop them.

"For me, I was not brave. I was most concerned about the lady and the children."

Although the victims were forced into a second vehicle outside Griffin Courtyard in Leg Street, Judge Peter Barrie said during the award presentation the role of Mrs Duncan was central to delaying the gang and allowing police to be 'on their tail'.

The vehicle was driven off before later being stopped by officers in Shrewsbury.

Mrs Duncan, of Llanforda Rise in Oswestry, was presented with a certificate and £250 by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Christine Holmes. Mrs Holmes said: "It was an extremely brave act."

Cheers to plaque unveiling

Members of the Black Country Society with the new blue plaque put up at the Noah's Ark pub in Tipton, to mark the 50th anniversary

A BLUE plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Country Society was unveiled in Tipton. The unique memento was presented to members of the group at the Noah's Ark pub in Wood Street.

It was there 50 years ago on March 1 that the first meeting of The Black Country Society took place. Around 70 members shared their memories of the group as well as bringing along old photographs to be copied to go with the new ones taken on the day. The plaque was placed over the pub's front door.

Members from the 1960s were also in attendance. The Black Country Society was founded in 1967 by the late enthusiasts Dr John Fletcher and John Brimble, who felt that the Black Country did not receive its fair share of recognition for its great contribution to the industrial development of Britain and the world.

James Morgan, group chairman for six years, said: "It was set up by a few men from Tipton and they used to sit amongst the beer and smoke and discuss that the Black Country was having a bad press. They helped establish the Black Country Living Museum." The society also publishes a quarterly magazine called 'The Blackcountryman'.

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Home in on advice for building plans

COMPETITION

TODAY there are more people looking for a home in the West Midlands than there are homes to choose from.

As monthly demand rises by more than 20 per cent The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show returns with its largest exhibition ever at Birmingham's NEC from March 23-26.

The show will have more than 500 exhibitors, 16 free daily seminars and 35 masterclasses over four intense days. And not only do our readers have a chance to win a pair of tickets, with 20 pairs up for grabs, but we are also offering an amazing first prize, a set of Lithe Audio Bluetooth Ceiling Speakers & Passive Speaker Kits worth £269.99.

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Experience

The show, sponsored in Birmingham for the first time by Everest Home Improvements, a British company with over 50 years' experience in double glazed windows, conservatories, doors and more, will host over 15 resident property experts, some of whom are regular TV presenters.

They will be on hand to discuss all renovating and building queries alongside companies which will introduce their latest services and products from industries including design, architecture, financial services, kitchens, bathrooms, doors and windows, ventilation, heating, planning permission and much more.

There will be advice and guidance, and real case studies present to talk about their experiences with consumers who are facing similar challenges throughout all stages of their projects.

On Saturday, visitors will have the opportunity to hold 15-minute consultations with celebrity experts who star in their favourite TV property programmes. Charlie Luxton, sustainable architectural designer currently presenting 'Building the Dream' on More 4, will talk about eco living, new architectural ideas and homes of the future. Julia Kendell, interior design expert for BBC's 'DIY SOS', ITV's '60 Minute Makeover' and 'Rebuild Our Home', will give inspiration to those revamping their properties.

The show's resident DIY Doctor, Mike Edwards, will be hosting demonstrations to inspire visitors to take matters into their own hands and address some of the key aspects of their projects without the help of a contractor.

He will prepare tutorials on topics from installing insulation to coating walls, which will help transform a home into a better place to live and encourage both men and women to roll up their sleeves, which will ultimately save time and money. For self-builders the Advice Centre is a hub for impartial guidance.

Homebuilding & RENOVATING SHOW Everest

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Troubled academy attacked by Ofsted

A TROUBLED academy has once again come under fire by Ofsted, with the education watchdog criticising weak teaching, widespread bullying and low attendance.

Ofsted said The Ace Academy in Tipton had 'failed too many of its pupils'. The school remains in special measures after the regulator ruled it was 'inadequate' in all areas following a fresh inspection.

It said it had seen little improvement at the academy, which has had the worst-possible rating for more than two years, and presented a picture of a school in crisis. The Alexandra Road school has more than 1,400 pupils.

The inspectorate said outcomes for pupils were 'inadequate and declining'.

Progress for Year 11 pupils in 2016 was said to have been 'exceptionally weak' with prospects for this year's children likely to be worse.

The report also said the most able pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 were 'significantly underperforming'.

Leaders admitted the school had struggled to attract high-quality teachers to the extent that a fifth are currently supply teachers

By Richard Guttridge

or unqualified. 'Many pupils' as well as parents said bullying was a problem and that they were not always confident complaints would be treated 'effectively and consistently', Ofsted said.

The academy is part of the University of Wolverhampton's Education Central Multi-Academy Trust and counts Sir Geoff Hampton, who has been credited with turning around a number of failing schools, among its governors.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said: "Parents would be right to be concerned.

"This is a classic example of what is wrong with the Government's policy and the Secretary of State for education should also be concerned."

Councillor kicks off special activities

Councillor Ann Shackleton with Stephen Talbot and disability co-ordinator Michael Bott at Portway Lifestyle Centre

ARCHERY, gentle exercise and multi-sports were on the timetable for people with disabilities during a visit by Sandwell's social care boss to Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury.

The centre in Newbury Lane opened its doors to their special guest, Councillor Ann Shackleton, to show the council's disability day opportunities service in action. Councillor Shackleton, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for social care, went along to see for herself the activities on offer. She said: "This service helps people with disabilities get to know others, gain confidence and become as independent as possible.

"This isn't a traditional disability day service. It involves Sandwell Leisure Trust and is held in an award-winning building and makes sure being inclusive is a priority in a fun environment. The aim is to reduce loneliness as well as maintain and improve health."

For more information on the council's disability day opportunities service, contact Michael Bott, disability co-ordinator at Portway Lifestyle Centre, on 0121 543 4809.

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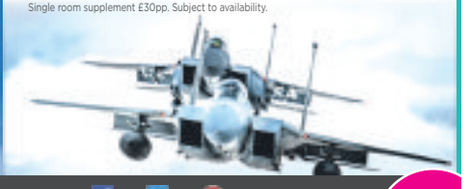

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Veggie-power boxing champ Lauren steps into pro ranks

A VEGAN female boxer who trains in Wednesbury is leading the way for the sport and the Black Country as she crosses over to the professional ranks.

Lauren Johnson, the 32-year-old one-time national amateur champion, two-time Midlands champion and England v USA intercollegiate champion doesn't eat meat, fish, eggs, cheese or other dairy products, instead she has an entirely plant-based diet.

The West Bromwich-based welterweight said: "I wanted to lose weight and someone told me that boxing was a good way to do that, so I started and the weight just dropped off. Because I was strong, my coach suggested that I start competing. So we went into the nationals where I had to fight the British and Irish champion. I knocked my competitor out 53 seconds into the first round. I've never looked back from there."

Boxer Lauren Johnson, aged 32

Lauren took time out a few years ago, when her father was taken ill. "When my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he was given just four months to live. The doctors suggested we put him on a vegan diet, and so that's what we did. He lasted for 18 months after that.

"After he died I was a bit down, and I thought, you know what? I'm going to do this vegan thing for my own health, and get back into boxing. Since I've been vegan, all of my fights have been against full-time athletes and I've beaten them."

When she's not boxing, Lauren is a security guard at Shrewsbury's Buttermarket and C:21 venues. Her bosses may be supportive of Lauren's eating habits, but her coach took more convincing. She's trained by boxer Varuzhan Davtyan at Wodensborough ABC in Wednesbury. "When people find out I'm a vegan they always ask me where I get my protein from. Even my coach was sceptical, he said there was no way I could train without eating meat, especially as I wasn't eating cheese.

"But since my last fight, how I outworked my opponent, he admitted that it was the best he'd ever seen me work and so then he couldn't say anything about it!"

* Lauren was in action on Saturday, see back page for more details.

Goalie Ben cuts it fine for Baggies' champion Dylen

A NEWLY-cropped young Albion fan from Wednesbury, walked out with pride onto the pitch at the Hawthorns on Saturday after being chosen as the fans' champion for the game against Crystal Palace.

Eight-year-old Dylen Rose, a Mesty Croft Academy pupil had been growing his hair for more than a year after he asked his mother about why a friend of his was ill.

Sally Taylor, aged 32 said: "He asked me why his hair had fallen out and I said he was poorly. He said can I give him some of my hair and that's when he started to grow it. He had quite a bit of stick from kids at school teasing him and tormenting him but when he explained what he was doing it for quite a few kids starting growing their hair too!"

Having grown his locks, Dylen thought he was going to the hairdressers to get shorn, but instead, was whisked away to the Baggies training ground in Walsall, where his idol, goalkeeper Ben Foster, was the one wielding the scissors.

Not only has Dylen given his hair to The Little Princess Trust, who make wigs for children who undergo chemotherapy, he's also raised £650 for the Make A Wish foundation.

Foster, who raises money for Cure Leukaemia through bike rides and signed football shirts, was all too happy to help.

"I've got kids exactly the same age as Dylen," he said. "For him to do it off his own bat, his parents must be so proud."

Safe hands – goalie Ben Foster, with Dylen and mum Sally

Nurses 'appy' to trial technology

The team of community nurses

A TEAM of community nurses who support patients in the Darlaston area are set to trial mobile technology aimed at improving their service and offering them greater security while working alone.

Staff from the West 1 Place Based Community Team will use computer tablets while out and about visiting patients and be the first staff to benefit from the £800,000 move from a paper-based patient assessment and service management system at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

Community nurse Julie Cowles said: "At the moment when patients ask us if the results of their blood tests have come back we have no way of accessing them, so if we can give them their results this is a much better service for them."

Matron Lindsay Vernon said this efficiency would also have a positive impact on patients' health and wellbeing.

Residents win postcode lottery

A WEDNESBURY postcode WS10 9DP, has landed People's Postcode Lottery's daily prize with six residents scooping £1,000 each.

The Vicarage Road residents found out that they had won the money on Monday.

Danyl Johnson, People's Postcode Lottery ambassador, said: "What a great prize for our players in Wednesbury. If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning with your postcode while raising money for charity then sign up now."

For more information, visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk

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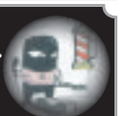

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Wiltshire, the rare jewel in rural England's crown

By Graeme Andrew

If there was any landscape which could be called quintessentially English, it would be one of undulating green meadows, picture-postcard cottages, white horses etched in the hillsides, oh and perhaps Stonehenge – in other words, Wiltshire.

There are fantastic treasures to offer the visitor, some widely known, some less obvious, hidden away from the hustle and bustle and a joy to discover.

Our base during a five-day short break, was Buckerfields Barn, near the fantastically-named Ogbourne St George, set in the heart of the North Wessex Downs near the Ridgeway path.

The accommodation is one of four ultra-modern and spacious holiday apartments as part of a barn conversion, set on a working plants nursery – with a majestic hill, and farmland, providing a superb backdrop.

Mod-cons included dishwasher, washer and tumble drier, an ultra-massaging power shower – perfect for aching limbs following rambling walks, and a smart TV.

On arrival, we were quick to get acquainted with the superb local pub, The Inn With The Well and its resident labrador, Marley, and soon realised everywhere we went, people were so friendly and welcoming.

The market town of Marlborough, an antique TV show's dream, is nearby and we enjoyed a morning walking round taking in both of the parish churches before a picnic in the huge Savanake Forest, with some massive gnarled old oaks for company.

It was then time for a tour off the beaten track, with fantastic villages such as Aldbourne to discover, the village pub right next to the duck pond – simply irresistible. After a trek up a hill past the church, we were suddenly keen to go in search of a white horse, we rooted out the map and ended up on a mad dash to Uffington White Horse, just over the county border, before it got too dark to see the most stylised of all the chalk-hill artworks – 3,000 years old, and despite the blustery conditions, a truly awe-inspiring sight.

All this was achieved in the first day of our stay! The rest of the week was spent exploring neolithic gems which are in abundance, such as Silbury Hill – the largest manmade hill in Europe; Avebury Stone Circle, set in a lovely village looked after by the National Trust, and of course Stonehenge itself.

But the natural beauty of the landscape and the towns and villages are also worth taking stock of, with the art of thatching still very much alive and kicking in this corner of Britain – even bus stops have thatched rooves! All told, we barely scratched the surface, and that was even after an afternoon in Salisbury, with the splendid cathedral and the Magna Carta within its environs to behold. The wonders of Wiltshire won us over, and left us wanting more...

For more details on the area log onto www.visitwiltshire.co.uk, and the accommodation www.buckerfieldsbarn.co.uk

Stonehenge at sunset. Pictures used courtesy of VisitWiltshire

The lovely market town of Marlborough, in the North Wessex Downs

FIND OUT MORE:

Marlborough: www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/towns-and-villages/marlborough-p476503

Savernake Forest: www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/things-to-do/savernake-forest-p1963493

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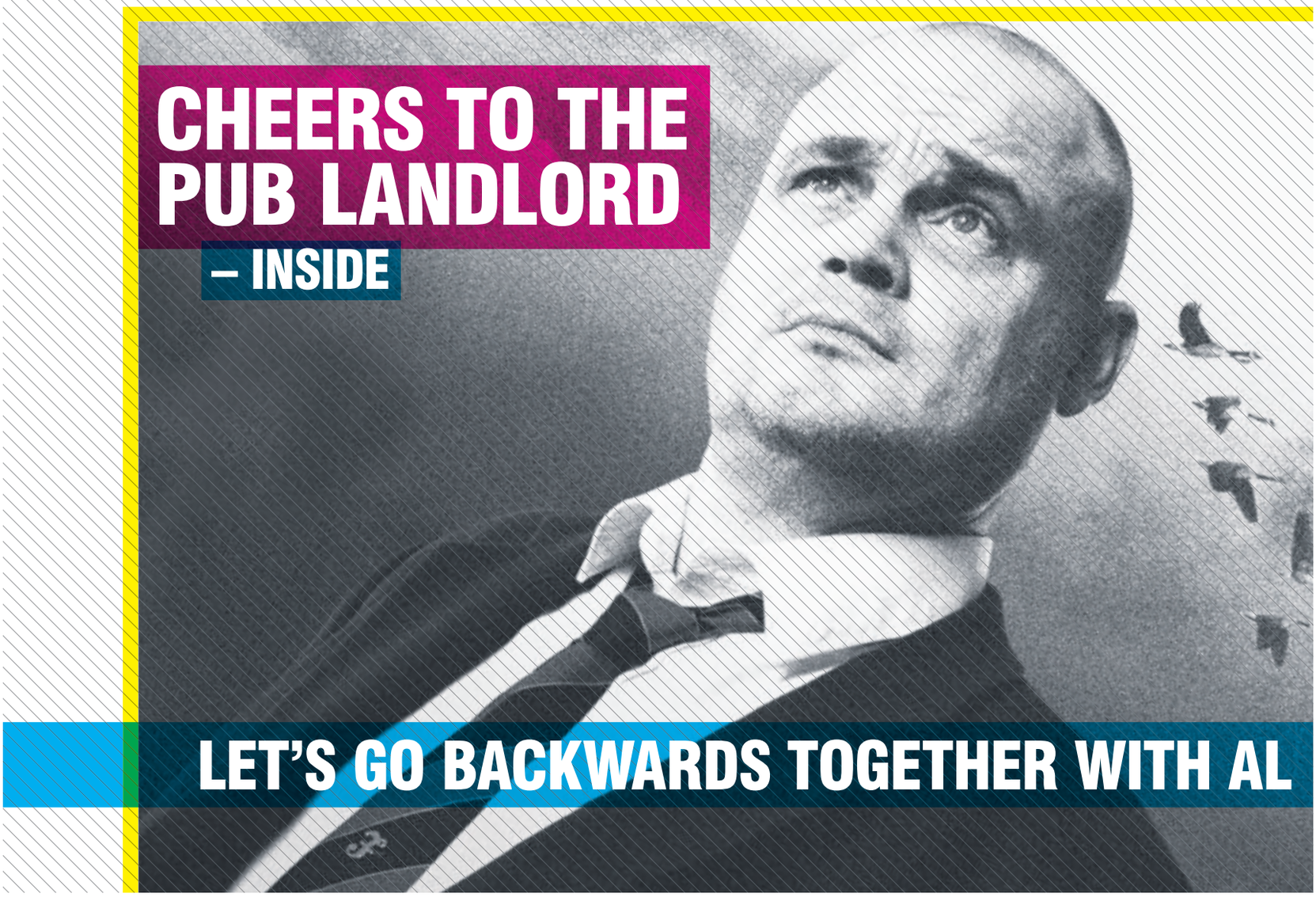

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Upbringing no bar on comic licensee

There's a fine line between art and life. And while Al Murray is not really a pub landlord – he's actually a culturally rapacious, successful comic with a large house in Chiswick and a collection of Action Man-style dolls of people like Saddam Hussein and Winston Churchill – his character bears an uncanny resemblance to those who are perfectly, frighteningly real.

Take this, for instance, spoken in character: "Of course, the reason they are coming here is because this is the greatest country in the world. The only way to stop them is for a government to change that and make things a whole lot worse. Look no further. However, in the meantime we brick up the Channel Tunnel. With British bricks. Probably have to get some Poles in to do it. Common sense."

Murray is currently on tour in a post-Brexit, post-fact world. His new show is called Let's Go Backwards Together and it's been acclaimed by critics as his best. While Murray's character is resolutely commonsensical , the performer himself was educated at Bedford School and Oxford University and his ancestors include the 3rd Duke of Atholl, a bishop, an ambassador and William Makepeace Thackery, the 19th century novelist best known for his satirical works, particularly Vanity Fair, was his great-great-great grandfather.

EXASPERATED

Those impeccable credentials, however, mean nothing in the cauldron of stand-up. For Murray knows better than anyone: if you get a line wrong, there's nowhere to hide.

"I think that what some people don't realise is that there are gradations of posh. I have cousins who went to Eton. I think [people who went to] Eton, Harrow, they're properly posh. But my Dad worked for British Rail for 40 years, my mother worked for the Citizens Advice Bureau in Milton Keynes.

"We're resolutely downwardly mobile. With showbusiness, you can be as posh as you like, but if you're not delivering, then you won't get on. So I don't get annoyed, I'm just exasperated that it's supposed to say anything about me at all. I went to private school because my grandfather left some money for a grandson.

"I do accept that I am from a privileged background. I was lucky I went to private school. I know all those things. But I don't think they explain anything about me at all.

"There's an interesting idea about art right now – 'you're not allowed to imagine' seems to be the argument. So I'm not allowed to imagine what people might think, or send up how other people might think. That's an argument against art. That's an argument against creativity."

Murray's tour is under way around the UK and he'll return to Birmingham on May 22 to headline the city's REP theatre.

Murray added that his new show takes a humorous approach to the challenging era in which we live. "We live in troubling times. Europe. The NHS. Whatever the hell is going on in the Middle East. The gathering storm of fortnightly bin collections? Who knows where it will all end?"

A world apart – comic Al Murray and his Pub Landlord character

Meanwhile, on the comedy scene this week, Jerry 'The King' Lawler, the King of Memphis and a WWE Hall of Famer, will bring his spoken word show to Birmingham's Glee Club on Wednesday.

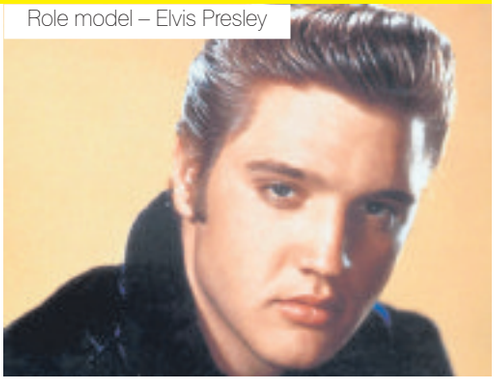
The live, spoken word show will feature as many tales and experiences from 40 years on the road as it's possible to cram into one evening. Fans can look forward to a 'witty, articulate and impassioned' evening and they will also be able to ask their own questions. Comedy will also be in store at the Glee Club tonight and tomorrow with a line-up of Paul Thorne, Christian Schulte-Loh, Carl Donnelly and Tom Lucy. Thorne has been described by The Guardian as a 'must-see comedian' who regularly performs at The Comedy Store and has taken his unique brand of edgy and provocative topical gags, on the spot improvisation and surreal comedy songs as far afield as Dubai, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, China and Japan.

> *You aren't allowed to imagine now – that's an argument against creativity.*

Lucy, meanwhile, has been described by Harry Hill as being an outstanding young comic who is headed for great things. In the last year, he has supported the likes of Jack Whitehall, Russell Kane, Paul Chowdhry, Simon Amstell, Russell Howard and Seann Walsh. He is also the youngest comedian ever to play professionally at The Comedy Store.

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Dream part – Liam Sargeant


Role model – Elvis Presley

Just Grand – music by 'King' and Liam is ready to reign

HE grew up on Elvis music and now Wolverhampton student Liam Sargeant is All Shook Up having landed his dream role singing songs made famous by 'the King'.

Liam will feature in the lead role of Chad when the rock 'n' roll musical is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, March 18.

Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (MUSCOM) will be celebrating the music of Elvis Presley in the new show set in small town America in 1955, as a musical revolution is about to happen. Fledgling actor and singer Liam has had to juggle rehearsals with studying English language and English literature at Oxford University. He said: "I'm commuting as many times as I can. Over Christmas we got as much done as we could and that was really good. There was quite a bit of time so we managed to set the whole show. But then it was time to go back to university and so it's not completely straightforward."

As Chad, Liam plays a guitar-playing roustabout who rides into a square little town. Suddenly, everyone and everything changes. Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, this lip-curling, hip-swivelling musical comedy is based on Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and will have fans rockin' out of their Blue Suede Shoes.

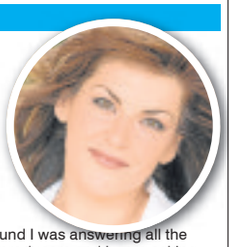
The classic hits will include Heartbreak Hotel, Jailhouse Rock, Can't Help Falling In Love and many more.

Liam has been a regular with local amateur dramatics companies since a child. He said: "I've been singing my whole life and gradually started acting and dancing too. It's just something I've always done. I've always been involved in musical theatre.

"I've been part of lots of different companies in the Midlands. I've played with MUSCOM and both the West Bromwich and Bilston amateur operatic societies. MUSCOM are great. I really enjoy being part of the team and I think this is my fourth show with them."

Nothing beats coming home, however, and the Wolverhampton performer always enjoys playing at the Grand.

Shirley comedy proves to be ultimate escape



It's been 31 years since Willy Russell's heart-warming comedy, Shirley Valentine, took the world by storm.

It told the story of a Liverpool housewife whose kids have left home and she makes egg and chips for her husband every day, while talking to the wall. Then she escapes... to Greece.

The show was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film, starring Pauline Collins and Tom Conti, and now Jodie Prenger (pictured) is starring in the first major revival of this national treasure, which continues a week-long run at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday.

Jodie found fame on Andrew Lloyd Webber's TV show to find a star in I'd Do Anything and was subsequently cast as Nancy in his 2009 production of Oliver!

Her recent theatre credits have included UK tours of Camelot, Tell Me On A Sunday and One Man, Two Guvnors, and a stint last festive season at the Birmingham Hippodrome panto.

SURPRISES

Then gritty Irish soul musical The Commitments, based on Roddy Doyle's book, which was also made into a movie by Alan Parker, is staged at the Alex from Monday to Saturday, March 18.

The story about the ups and downs of a Dublin R&B band includes former Coronation Street star Kevin Kennedy.

On adapting the story for the stage, Roddy Doyle says: "I hadn't planned to write it myself but then I did. I really enjoyed it.

We had met with a number of impressive writers but I found I was answering all the questions the producers and I were asking them."

On selecting the songs, Doyle says: "I wanted to go for well-known songs, but also there to be a few surprises in there.

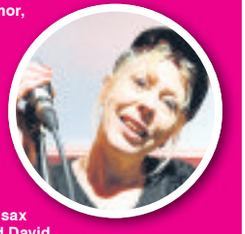
"Soul often isn't about the song itself, it's about the way it is sung or how it's interpreted. The songs were chosen because they help tell the story."

The show is not only packed with great songs but is also laugh out loud funny.

Doyle adds: "It was always going to be a comedy. It's about a band so it doesn't touch on life or death, you can say 'music is life and death to me', but it's not."

There is musical nostalgia coming to the Alex soon with You've Got A Friend: The Music of James Taylor and Carole King on March 21 and One Night of Elvis with Lee 'Memphis' King on March 23.

Will You join 80s star Hazel at the Robin 2?



Eighties New Wave star Hazel O'Connor, who found fame in the film Breaking Glass, will perform in Bilston next Wednesday.

The singer-songwriter, from Coventry, recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of the film whose soundtrack, including Will You and Eight Day, went platinum and reached number five in the British album charts.

She will be joined on The Robin 2 stage by Clare Hirst, who has played sax with the Bellestars, Communards and David Bowie, and keyboards player Sarah Fisher who performed with the Eurythmics.

Nostalgia that promises fans a Wail-ers of a time

More eighties nostalgia at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday with a line-up including Paul Young, Toyah, China Crisis and, from America, Martika. Yes fans will be out in force at Symphony Hall on Monday for a sold-out gig by ARW, which is (Jon) Anderson, (Trevor) Rabin and (Rick) Wakeman.

Coinciding with One Love: The Bob Marley Musical at Birmingham Rep (until April 8), Marley's former musicians The Wailers have a one-off gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on Wednesday including originals Aston 'Familyman' Barrett, Tyrone Downie, Junior Marvin, Donald Kinsey and Earl 'Wya' Lindo.

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Sat 13 May	The Commitments & Historic York	£119
Sat 13 May	Ken Dodd & Liverpool Special	£99
Sat 13 May	The Crucible - Live In Manchester	£99
Sat 13 May	Solid Silver 60's Tour & Liverpool	£119

NATIONAL SPORTS
Sensational Sports Breaks....

2 DAY SPORT BREAKS

Sat 15 Apr	Liverpool & Haydock Races - Easter Special	£99
Sat 13 May	Liverpool & Haydock Race	£99
Sat 13 May	Women's FA Cup Final - Wembley (B&B)	£99
Sat 20 May	Non-League Finals Day - Wembley Stadium (B&B)	£99
Sat 20 May	FA Vase & FA Trophy Finals - Wembley (B&B)	£99
Sat 20 May	British Touring Car Championship - Oulton Park	£119
Sat 27 May	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Doncaster Races & York	£79
Sat 10 Jun	Polo In The Park Family Day & London (B&B)	£119
Sat 1 Jul	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Wed 2 Aug	Manchester United Stadium Tour & Liverpool	£99
Sat 5 Aug	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 5 Aug	Doncaster Races & York	£79
Sat 5 Aug	England v South Africa - Old Trafford	£129

Betway Premier League Darts - Live! — 2 DAYS

Thu 13 April £99

What's included?
- Coach travel throughout
- Reserved seating throughout your break
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- A visit to Liverpool
- Included admission to the Betway Premier League Darts at the Liverpool Echo Arena.

Explore Europe
Explore the best of Europe.....

Two Countries Special — 4 DAYS

Fri 31 March £199

What's included?
- Coach travel throughout
- Reserved seating throughout your break
- Three nights dinner, bed & continental breakfast at the Best Western Hotel Walram, Valkenburg
- All bedrooms with en-suite facilities
- Excursion taking in the delights of Aachen & Maastrict.

4/5 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS

Mon 20 Mar	4	Ostend Special Breakaway	£149
Mon 20 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad (B&B)	£279
Mon 20 Mar	5	Ostend Inclusive	£249
Mon 20 Mar	5	Rhine & Moselle Inclusive	£229
Mon 20 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle (B&B)	£339
Mon 20 Mar	5	Ostend Superdeal	£219
Mon 20 Mar	5	Rhine Valley Superdeal	£199
Fri 24 Mar	4	Ostend Inclusive Weekend	£189
Fri 24 Mar	4	Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 24 Mar	4	Paris Weekend Superdeal (B&B)	£159
Fri 24 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle (B&B)	£339
Fri 24 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel (B&B)	£289
Mon 27 Mar	4	Ostend Special Breakaway	£149
Fri 31 Mar	4	Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyraid (B&B)	£319

Special Events
Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
Sun 9 Apr	London & Kensington - Diana: Her Fashion Story	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Skipton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Cotswolds Wartime 1940's Special	£89
Sat 22 Apr	Emmerdale Studio Experience	£99
Sat 6 May	York & Emmerdale Village Tour	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show (B&B)	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Wed 17 May	Emmerdale Studio Experience	£79
Sat 20 May	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 27 May	Chelsea Flower Show	£169

Gino's Italian Escape — 2 DAYS

Tue 25 April £99

What's included?
- Coach travel throughout
- Reserved seating throughout your break
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Visit to Liverpool
- Amission to Gino's Italian Escape - live at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

Family Fun
Great breaks for all the family!

LEGOLAND Special Batman Movie Days (B&B) — 2 DAYS

Sat 18 March £99

What's included?
- Coach travel throughout
- Reserved seating throughout your break
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- All bedrooms with en-suite facilities
- Admission to LEGOLAND Windsor, including Batman Movie Days

2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular (B&B)	£99
Sat 25 Mar	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 1 Apr	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99
Thu 6 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Thu 13 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular (B&B)	£119
Sat 15 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 29 Apr	Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise	£99
Sat 13 May	London Zoo & Thames River Cruise	£119
Sat 20 May	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 20 May	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119

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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY'S TV MARCH 11

CHOICE

Geri Horner

Railway Nation: Across Britain in a Day (BBC2, 9pm)

Geri Horner follows in the footsteps of Tom Jones, Keith Richards, Boy George and Jazzie B by revisiting the decade that has defined her life and career to date. For Geri, that decade is the 1990s, when she shot to international stardom as Ginger Spice. At the height of her Spice Girls fame, Geri helped to ensure 'Girl Power' dominated the 'Cool Britannia' scene with her iconic Union Jack dress, and here she reflects on how a working-class girl from Watford came to symbolise the gender politics of a turbulent era. She also discusses the key political and social moments of the '90s, including Nelson Mandela's release, the birth of New Labour and the launch of the World Wide Web.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Everyday. (R) **12.00** Football Focus – FA Cup on the Road. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45 Film:** Kung Fu Panda. (2008) **4.10** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Fish, Barbara Dickson, Nick Heyward, Toyah Willcox, Heather Small, Mari Wilson, Jessica Taylor and Kelli Young take part in a music industry-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz. (R)

6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. The next round of the celebrity talent contest sees the stars of Casualty and Holby City, The Chasers, James and Ola Jordan, and EastEnders' Danny-Boy Hatchard take to the stage.

8.00 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.40 Casualty. Robyn takes matters into her own hands as David's manic behaviour gives his colleagues cause for concern. Meanwhile, the gang prepares to throw a 60th birthday party for Duffy.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes is excited about Rory and Dino's big day, until she meets their flamboyant wedding planner, while Father Damien raises concerns about the ceremony. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Bournemouth v West Ham United at the Vitality Stadium and Hull City v Swansea City at the KCOM Stadium.

11.05 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the day's opening sixth-round fixtures, which were Middlesbrough v Manchester City, and Arsenal v Lincoln City.

11.35 This Country. The mockumentary continues, as Kerry's dad Martin is accused of being a "Peeping Tom".

12.00 Line of Duty. (R) **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Film: Yellow Canary. (1943) **8.10 Film:** The Happiest Days of Your Life. (1950) **9.30** Coast. **10.00** Natural World. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **1.00** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Red Shoes. (1948) Powell and Pressburger's drama, starring Moira Shearer. **3.40** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.10** University Challenge. (R) **4.40** Only Connect. (R) **5.10** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Natural World. The natural history documentary follows the work of tough Australian Chris "Brolga" Barnes, who featured in his own BBC Two documentary series a couple of years ago, and has dedicated his life to rescuing and raising orphaned kangaroos in the outback near Alice Springs. This two-part film follows Brolga as he expands operations by opening his doors to a whole new bunch of animals, including a trio of camels, a southern hairy-nosed wombat and three emu chicks, as well as building a wildlife hospital. (R)

7.00 Natural World. Part two of two. The new animals are proving quite a handful, and with Brolga on crutches after a run-in with Roger the kangaroo, there is not much he can do at the moment. (R)

8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton heads to the northernmost spur of Skye, the Trotternish Peninsula, which has a distinct identity of its own – almost as if it were an island within an island.

8.30 Dad's Army. The bumbling platoon boosts its fighting strength by acquiring an armoured car. Classic comedy, starring Clive Dunn and Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 Geri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom. Geri Horner shares her memories of the 1990s, when she first achieved international stardom as Ginger Spice, and considers some of the key political and social moments of the era.

10.00 Live at the Apollo. Glaswegian comedian Frankie Boyle takes to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo, and introduces rising stars Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (R)

10.45 Film: LA Confidential. (1997) Thriller set in the 1950s, with Russell Crowe.

12.55 Taboo. (R) **2.55 Film:** Rabbit Hole. (2010) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Alphabetical. (R) **10.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **11.05** The Voice UK. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v France (Kick-off 1.30pm). **3.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The popular duo's Saturday evening variety show continues, as the pair bring back Singalong Live for the first time this series, and invite the newly reunited 1990s dance-pop outfit Steps to do the honours. Stephen Mulhern hits the streets to give members of the public the chance to win a big-money prize in In For a Penny, and the plot thickens as Emilia Fox continues to chase the mystery thief in The Missing Crown Jewels. Plus, Ant and Dec themselves star in the End of the Show Show.

8.30 The Voice UK. The remaining contestants face the third of five, live knock-out rounds, as Will.i.am's roster of hopeful stars go head-to-head in a battle for survival. Presented by Emma Willis.

9.45 ITV News; Weather.

10.05 Lethal Weapon. When Riggs and Murtaugh respond to a noise complaint, they are drawn into a case involving illegal gun-runners and advanced military technology that involves Riggs personally. (R)

11.00 Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II. (1985) John Rambo returns to the jungles of Vietnam on a mission to rescue American PoWs and exact a violent revenge. Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna.

12.50 Schofield's South African Adventure. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Channel 4 News.

6.05 Dogs Behaving Badly. Leading dog trainer Graeme "the Dogfather" Hall invites viewers to gain an insight into his work, which sees him tackle troublesome dogs – and their owners.

7.00 Crufts 2017. Clare Balding presents live coverage from the NEC in Birmingham, where the the penultimate day of Crufts is under way. Today's tentpole events include Agility and Flyball contests, and judging of the Gundog Group. "Supervet" Professor Noel Fitzpatrick is in the studio discussing scientific advances in canine health, and answers viewers' questions. He also puts his skills as a trainer to the test with an agility demonstration. Plus, Clare meets the Rev Kate Bottley from Gogglebox, who is at the show representing the Retired Greyhound Trust.

9.00 Film: Room. (2015) Premiere. A woman who has been held captive for years lives in a single room with her son, who has never experienced life beyond its walls. She resolves to make sure he has a complete and fulfilling life, but when they finally escape, she faces the challenge of helping him cope with a world he has no experience of. Drama based on Emma Donoghue's novel, starring an Oscar-winning Brie Larson, with Jacob Tremblay, Joan Allen and William H Macy.

11.20 Film: The Adjustment Bureau. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon and Emily Blunt.

1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. **4.10** Shipping Wars UK. (R) **4.55** Four in a Bed. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Access. **10.35** Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids. (R) **11.30** Benefits: On the Yorkshire Dole. (R) **12.25** Benefit Beauty Queens. (R) **1.25** Dance Moms. **2.20** Dance Moms. **3.15** Dance Moms. **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. Elsewhere, Stewart and Victor chase £1,000 from a debtor who has defaulted on his payment plan, but they are subjected to abuse and the police are called to a driveway standoff. Plus, two agents try to recover £1,600 worth of goods from the owner of an entertainment company after a wedding day dispute, and in west London, a landlady is owned £9,000 in rent arrears by a young mother. (R)

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. A vehicle transporting Jada Khaled to her criminal tribunal is ambushed, prompting the team to trace the culprit in an attempt to save her and the case. Meanwhile, concerns grow for Sam as it is the first time he has seen the former governor's sister since returning from Sudan.

8.00 NCIS. The secretary of the US Navy seeks the NCIS team's help in locating a suitable bone marrow donor for a sailor whose two Marine brothers were killed in the line of duty.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United v Fulham.

9.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Gillingham v Scunthorpe United and Cambridge United v Doncaster Rovers.

10.20 Live Boxing on 5. Craig Kennedy v Stephen Simmons. Coverage of the bout for the vacant British Cruiserweight title.

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** London Boulevard. (2010) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **8.00** She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.15** People's History of Pop **1.15** Blues America **3.15** Sounds of the Eighties **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** The Voice UK **2.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.30 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00 Film:** American Pie: The Wedding (2003) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** American Pie: The Wedding (2003) **10.55** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.20** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.35 Inspector Morse **1.50** Rosemary & Thyme **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Monster Carp **1.00** Storage Wars: New York **1.30** ITV Racing Live. Coverage of today's race meetings at Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.00 Film:** The Great Outdoors (1988) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Great Outdoors (1988) **5.45** It's Not Rocket Science **6.45** Live Snooker: Players Championship. The concluding semi-final from Venue Cymru, Llandudno. **11.15 Film:** 6 Bullets (2012) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** 6 Bullets (2012) **1.35** Ax Men **2.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Film: Step Up (2006) **1.35** The Goldbergs **3.00** Black-ish **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.00 Film:** Mirror Mirror (2012) **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red 2 (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** Celebs Go Dating **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube **4.45** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Casper (1995) **1.00** Win Win (2011) **3.10** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **4.55** Johnny English (2003) **6.40** Morning Glory (2010) **9.00** AVP: Alien vs Predator (2004) **10.45** Hush (2008) **12.30** The Crazies (2010) **2.30** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) **4.00** Close

SUNDAY'S TV MARCH 12

CHOICE

Amanda Redman

The Good Karma Hospital (ITV, 9pm)
The Monsoon season is beginning, and as the first rains start to fall, the tension between Lydia and Ruby is reaching boiling point – driving the younger doctor to make a shocking decision. Maggie's health begins to decline dramatically, and Debbie is adamant that the family must return to the UK. However, Maggie remains determined to remain in India for the time she has left, and struggles to persuade her daughter to honour her last wishes. Conclusion of the medical drama, starring Amrita Acharia and Amanda Redman. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Hotspur v Millwall (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles challenge the artists to capture the human body in motion, and a solo dancer is brought in to perform for them for two hours. This is only the warm-up for a far greater challenge, when an entire troupe of ballerinas put in an appearance and perform an extract from Swan Lake while the painters try and depict their movements.

7.00 Countryfile. Adam Henson presents clips from the Countryfile Archive that illustrate how farming has changed in Britain, including a report on an underground farm in the middle of London.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Julienne oversees the opening of a family planning clinic, while Barbara is distraught when she discovers her father has accepted a missionary posting. Last in the series.

9.00 SS-GB. Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Britain is under German occupation.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which saw Liverpool face Burnley at Anfield.

11.00 Would I Lie to You? Comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon, in which team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by celebrity guests to deceive their opponents with plausible lies. (R)

11.30 American High School. The seniors look forward to the prom, but two of the organising committee are not speaking to each other. TJ visits his father in prison as he waits to hear if he is being expelled.

12.20 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** An Island Parish. (R) **7.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.15** Coast. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.00** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.30** MOTD2 Extra. **1.15** Rivers with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **2.20 Film:** Shall We Dance? (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere and Susan Sarandon. **4.00** The House That £100K Built. (R) **5.00** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R)

6.00 Six Nations Rugby Union. John Inverdale introduces action from the penultimate weekend of the tournament, featuring Wales v Ireland at the Principality Stadium, Italy v France at the Stadio Olimpico and England v Scotland at Twickenham.

7.00 Robot Wars. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the second heat, as eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final, pitting robots Cherub, PP3D, Draven, Push to Exit, Hobgoblin, Behemoth, Cobra and Eruption against each other in the arena.

8.00 Top Gear. Matt LeBlanc and Chris Harris go on a road trip across the US in convertible supercars, a journey that takes them from deserts to snow-capped mountains. Back at the test track, David Tennant is the Star in a Reasonably Fast Car, while Rory Reid comes up with a series of challenges to put the Alfa Romeo Giulia through its paces.

9.00 Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall. New series. The naturalist travels down the Baliem River in New Guinea from its source to the sea. He begins his journey inland at Lake Habema, and braves white water rapids.

10.00 Film: The Face of an Angel. (2014) Premiere. A journalist and a documentary-maker become obsessed with the murder case they are covering. Fact-based drama, with Daniel Bruhl, Kate Beckinsale and Cara Delevingne.

11.40 Women's Six Nations Highlights. Lee McKenzie is joined by Kat Merchant and Donna Kennedy to present action from the penultimate week, featuring Wales v Ireland and England v Scotland.

12.10 Taboo. (R) **2.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** The Voice UK. (R) **2.45** Little Big Shots. (R) **3.45** The Chase. (R) **4.45** Tipping Point. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. The comic is joined by Lorraine Kelly, Kathy Burke, Joe Lycett and Ainsley Harriott for the madcap panel show, in which the aim is to save Earth from an alien invasion. (R)

6.45 Five Gold Rings. A brother and sister and two Royal Navy shipmates compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app. Hosted by Phillip Schofield.

7.45 The Voice UK. Emma Willis hosts the final night of the live knock-out rounds, in which the acts on Gavin Rossdale's team sing to earn their places in the quarter-finals.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. The first rains of the Monsoon season start to fall as the tension between Lydia and Ruby rises, driving the younger doctor to make a shocking decision. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits. Highlights of the second week of the entertainment show.

10.50 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.50 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. Action from the semi-finals.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen. (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **3.20** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **4.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Crufts 2017. Clare Balding presents live coverage from the final day of the prestigious dog show, culminating in the Best in Show award and featuring the judging of the Working and Pastoral Groups and highlights of the Flyball final and the international Agility contest. Plus, expert advice on making the most of a dog's relationship with children and saying goodbye to a dying pet. Last in the series.

8.30 The Jump Live Final. The surviving celebrities face the final stage of the winter sports challenge to determine the overall champion. They go head to head in the Snow Cross and Ski Cross events, before heading to the top of the ski jump one last time to see who can cover the longest distance. Presented by Davina McCall.

9.30 Homeland. Carrie gets bad news, Saul makes a plan and Quinn accepts his situation. Starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Mandy Patinkin.

10.30 War Child. Documentary following three child refugees from Afghanistan and Syria making a dangerous journey across Europe in the hope of finding sanctuary, often unaccompanied by adults.

11.40 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

12.45 Film: Mama. (2013) Horror, starring Jessica Chastain. **2.25** The Last Leg. Comedian Harry Hill and physicist Brian Cox join the regulars. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. A cottage in Tunstall, Kent. (R) **4.15** Shipping Wars UK. Items include a Piaggio tuk tuk and a pair of swan pedalo boats. (R) **4.55** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.05** Fifteen to One. General knowledge quiz, hosted by Sandi Toksvig. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **6.55** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.50** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.50 Film:** Gorillas in the Mist. (1988) Fact-based drama, starring Sigourney Weaver. **3.20** Celebrity Carry on Barging. (R) **4.15** Celebrity Carry on Barging. (R) **5.15** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R)

6.10 Inside Windsor Castle. A look back at events that shaped the monarchy between 1952 and 1972, as Prince Philip grew restless and the Queen Mother reportedly ran up debts of £7million. (R)

7.00 Inside Windsor Castle. A look at 20 years in the life of the Queen and her family, covering the era from 1972, when she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary, to 1992. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. A Wolverhampton couple experience trouble with a neighbour whose extension is invading their space, while a former soldier takes the law into his own hands. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: The Equalizer. (2014) Premiere. A retired secret agent applies his talents to the task of helping victims of injustice. When he witnesses a prostitute being beaten up by a pimp, he kills the man, an act that draws him into a battle to the death with a Russian crime syndicate. Action thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Denzel Washington. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.35 Film: Harry Brown. (2009) An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited to fit time slot.

1.20 SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **9.00 Film:** The Lunchbox (2013) **10.40** Sound Waves: The Symphony of Physics **11.40** The Horizon Guide to Mars **12.40** Edwardian Insects on Film **1.40** Bullseyes and Beer – When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift **2.40** Dazzling Duets at the BBC **3.40** Close

ITV2
2.00 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.45** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **5.20 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.15 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender

ITV3
11.10 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **1.00** A Touch of Frost **3.05 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Carry On Forever **11.05 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.30** Inspector Morse **3.20** May the Best House Win **5.05** On the Buses **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.45 Live Snooker: Players Championship. **5.15** Storage Wars: Texas **5.40** Fishing Impossible **6.45** Live Snooker: Players Championship. **11.15 Film:** Lock Up (1989) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Lock Up (1989) **1.30** Sporting Funnies **1.45** The Football Mavericks **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
2.00 Black-ish **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00 Film:** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **12.05** Celebs Go Dating **1.10** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Gap Year **3.55** Hollyoaks

Film4
1.00 Dunston Checks In (1996) **2.45** King Kong (1976) **5.25** Carry On Regardless (1961) **7.20** Chronicle (2012) **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) **11.35** High Crimes (2002) **1.50** Magic Magic (2013) **3.55** Close

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Sabotage, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The members of an elite Drug Enforcement Administration team secretly keep the millions of dollars they find during the raid. When they are killed off one by one, the leader becomes convinced one of his men is getting rid of the others to keep all the money, and sets out to expose the murderer. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (2014)

TUESDAY
Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Newlywed Jade returns from her honeymoon to discover her recently widowed father has been seduced by the caregiver she hired to look after him in her absence. The strange situation becomes even more suspicious when Jade's dad suddenly dies from a fall, and when the young woman finds out her new step-mother is the sole beneficiary of a recently amended will, she becomes convinced a murder has taken place. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Jordana Largy. (2016)

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY
Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged family of a murdered politician suspects the killer is his mentally disturbed daughter. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner, Emily Bergl and Matt Keeslar. Edited for violence. (2008)

THURSDAY
Left for Dead, Channel 5, 3.20pm
After being left for dead, a detective develops amnesia and remembers nothing about her life or family. As she struggles to recall her past, she discovers that the road to recovery may threaten the safety of her husband and daughter. Thriller, starring Elisabeth Rohm, Tygh Runyan and Neil Napier. (2014)

FRIDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, BBC1, 10.35pm
Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jack Davenport and Bill Nighy. (2006)

Uhtred makes plans for revenge as series returns

The last time we saw Alfred (David Dawson), he was hiding in a swamp with Uhtred (Alexander Dreymon).

In the series one finale, the two came together to take on the Danes, who have conquered almost all the kingdoms in the realm. So, what will Alfred find on the road in season 2, as he sets his sights on the wild lands of the north?

Well, for starters, he finds a lot of suffering. With no army to defend them, his people were left to fend for themselves, and many of them lost their wealth and lives due to raids by the Danes and others.

But Alfred's conviction to create a united England is stronger than ever, and he targets the wild lands of the north, which have fallen into chaos and rebellion.

Uhtred, meanwhile, went through a subtle transformation in series one. The warrior's fiery temper cooled a little and during his time with Alfred in the marshlands, he also felt sympathy for him on account of the suffering of the king's child.

The character was willing to learn and change after his interactions with the Saxons, but this change is unlikely to be welcome to many of the other Danes.

So Alfred and Uhtred now have to find a way to fight back the Danes, and the latter also embarks on a voyage north to avenge Earl Ragnar's death and recapture his ancestral lands of Bebbanburg.

The pair's main nemesis this time around looks to be Guthrum (Thomas W Gabrielsson), Ubba's second-in command who is both intelligent, ruthless and unhinged.

This bloody Viking vs Saxon series is adapted by BAFTA-nominated and RTS award-winning writer Stephen Butchard from Bernard Cornwell's bestselling series of novels.

It is set in the ninth century at a time when many of the separate kingdoms of England have fallen to the invading Vikings, with only the great kingdom of Wessex left standing and defiant under the command of King Alfred the Great.

The emotionally complex and compelling landscape of revenge, rivalry, hostility, corruption, love, sex, loyalty and friendship forms the backdrop to a gripping adventure, and such has been its popularity overseas, this second series has seen Netflix climb aboard to co-produce the series along with the BBC.

Dreymon (American Horror Story) and Dawson (Peaky Blinders) return as the two leads, and they are reunited with Emily Cox (Homeland) who stars as Brida, Ian Hart (Boardwalk Empire) who plays Beocca and Tobias Santelmann (Marcella) as Ragner the Younger from the first series.

The Last Kingdom has been described as 'the thinking person's Game of Thrones.'

And although the series may not ever be a popular as that – let's not forget it is an historical drama rather than a fantasy series – it certainly fills the gap for viewers thirsty for battles, gore, hairy warriors with swords and famous actors meeting grisly ends.

The Last Kingdom, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup
BBC1, 7.30pm
Chelsea v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the sixth-round tie, which takes place at Stamford Bridge, as the two Premier League giants fight for a semi-final place. Antonio Conte's side are flying high in the league at present, and are firm favourites to lift the trophy at the end of the season. Jose Mourinho's Red Devils are the current holders of the FA Cup and are still in the domestic title hunt, but the Portuguese will probably see this competition as a more likely opportunity of silverware. The Blues ran out 4-0 winners the last time the sides met in the league back in October, thanks to goals from Pedro, Gary Cahill, Eden Hazard and N'Golo Kante.

TUESDAY
Inside No 9
BBC2, 10pm
One of the things that makes Inside No 9 so compelling is that while some of the darkly comic tales make their gothic intentions clear from the start, others begin with what sound like everyday premises before spiralling off in some very unexpected directions. Take this week's instalment for example in which a couple's world is changed for ever by what appears to be an innocuous discovery. Louise (guest star Keeley Hawes) and David (Reece Shearsmith) have a young daughter, a lovely house and a seemingly ordinary life. But then David finds a single black shoe and brings it home with him. Admittedly, a few people would question that decision, but for this family the shoe becomes a life-changing obsession that threatens to come between them.

WEDNESDAY
The Royal House of Windsor
Channel 4, 9pm
The fascinating story of the Windsor dynasty continues, this week charting the drama and intrigue associated with Prince Charles' love-life. It begins by looking at how, during the late 1970s, the Prince of Wales resolved to avoid repeating the mistakes of his great uncle, King Edward VIII, and sought advice on marriage from another great uncle – Lord Mountbatten. Taking Charles under his wing, Mountbatten arranged a secret meeting in Paris between the heir and his disgraced 'Uncle David'. However the the exiled king's example fails to stop Charles falling in love with an unsuitable woman, who ends up marrying one of her past boyfriends. Returning to his first love, Camilla Parker Bowles – now a mother of two – stability continues to elude the prince. And pressure from all sides prompts him to turn his eye to Lady Diana Spencer.

Inside No 9, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

THURSDAY
Shop Well for Less?
BBC1, 8pm
Katy and Wayne Williams love designer clothes – and their passion for labels has been passed on to their eight-year-old daughter Holly, who is already very brand aware. Unfortunately, their taste for luxury comes at a price, and the couple's credit card bills are spiralling out of the control – which is where Alex Jones and Steph McGovern come in. They head to North Wales to change the family's ways, and their first act is set up a pop-up shop filled with the Williams' belongings to make them face up to the reality of their splurges. The presenters then set about replacing some of the family's usual brands with cheaper alternatives, before taking away some of their luxuries, from hairpieces to expensive nights out. But while this leads to the Williams spending less cash – and more time together – will they be inspired to make a permanent change?

FRIDAY
Tony Robinson: Coast to Coast
Channel 5, 8pm
The actor and history buff steps off the beaten track to reveal the fascinating religious and industrial heritage that underscores the near-200-mile stretch of lush and diverse countryside along northern England. Venturing from the west to the east, his journey begins in the village of St Bees where he asks: why does such a small community have such a colossal church? The morning's exploits leave Tony hungry, and he seizes the opportunity to discover the upper crust origins of the scotch egg in the Lake District. Then, at the region's most westerly lake, Tony meets a farmer taking a pioneering approach to protect the natural environment, before trying his hand at brewing the perfect pint of craft ale. The first leg of Tony's journey comes to an end at England's most remote youth hostel, Black Sail Hut.

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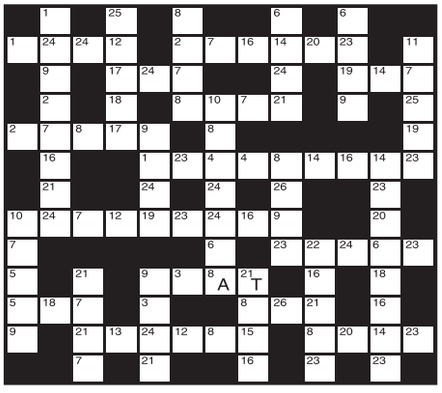
BRAIN GYM

No.420

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



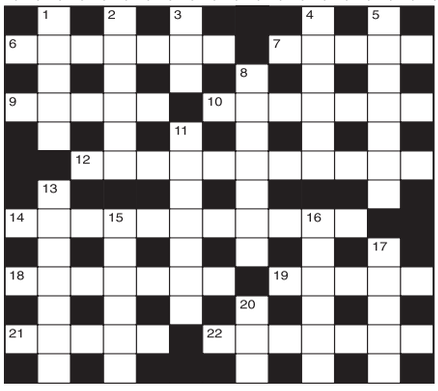
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 A	21 T
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	S	J	O	Y	H	Z	L	C	Q	N	G	A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	T	U	X	I	D	M	V	B	E	P	K	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Tell about a second reckoning (7)
7. Pinafore used back in Roman or pagan days (5)
9. One cent to add to the total returned makes a sweet sound! (5)
10. Is it stopped to play the first note of the scale? (7)
12. How to raise stock but see profits diminish? (11)
14. A purposeful glance at the dictionary? (7,4)
18. Muttered that mother lost blood (7)
19. Don't get rid of the staff! (5)
21 & 22 Ac. Toss for ends? (5,2,5)
22. See 21 Across

Down

1. & 3 Dn. He makes his first appearance, putting aunt badly in debt (8)
2. Refinement in language? (6)
3. See 1 Down
4. Firing into the air by way of conclusion (6)
5. Leave and throw away that young bird (7)
8. Lies and disclaimers (7)
11. Tool for bridge-building? (7)
13. Commissioned position indeed! (7)
15. The missing corpse is that of an insignificant person (6)
16. Was prostrate longer through expenditure? (6)
17. Series of notes on a fish? (3)
20. Cook small fish (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Income (7)
7. Rate (5)
9. Coach (5)
10. Lull (7)
12. Show (11)
14. Bar (11)
18. Free (7)
19. Scatter (5)
21. Pungent (5)
22. Merit (7)

Down

1. Joyous (5)
2. Quote (6)
3. Place (3)
4. Seem (6)
5. Under (7)
8. Beat (7)
11. Arch (7)
13. Non-existence (7)
15. Essay (6)
16. Start (6)
17. Quit (5)
20. Chop (3)

Sudoku

		2				4		
	1		6		4		2	8
8				9				1
3			2		8			7
	7					2		
6		4	1		9			3
2				8			4	9
	6		4		5		8	
		3			6	7		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	2	9	8	6	4	5	7	3
4	5	8	9	3	7	6	2	1
3	7	6	5	2	1	9	4	8
6	9	5	1	7	2	3	8	4
7	1	4	6	8	3	2	9	5
8	3	2	4	5	9	1	6	7
2	4	7	3	1	6	8	5	9
9	8	3	2	4	5	7	1	6
5	6	1	7	9	8	4	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Square meal; 7 Thumb; 8 Founder; 10 Contours; 11 Keep; 13 Seated; 15 Parsee; 17 Iota; 18 Tributes; 21 Lasting; 22 Elfin; 23 Undertakes. Down: 1 Spurn; 2 Unbroken; 3 Reform; 4 Maul; 5 Address; 6 Stock-still; 9 Repressing; 12 Daybreak; 14 Artisan; 16 Fright; 19 Tiffs; 20 Time.
QUICK - Across: 1 Supervisor; 7 Erase; 8 Proceed; 10 Condense; 11 Fate; 13 Pierce; 15 Pillar; 17 Iran; 18 Christen; 21 Edition; 22 Tress; 23 Undeterred. Down: 1 Stain; 2 Presence; 3 Repast; 4 Icon; 5 Overall; 6 Perceptive; 9 Dreariness; 12 Minister; 14 Evasion; 16 Change; 19 Tread; 20 Size.

Quiz

1. With which saxophone is Sidney Bechet associated?
2. Who resigned in November 1994 as head of the Number 10 Policy Unit?
3. In which year was the CBI established?
4. Whose epic silent film The Birth of a Nation is considered the first film masterpiece?
5. Who was the first member of the Royal Family to visit Argentina after the Falklands?
6. From which language is Afrikaans a direct descendant?
7. Which French philosopher wrote Being and Nothingness in 1943?
8. With which two cities is Italian painter Canaletto chiefly associated?
9. Who co-wrote Jesus Christ Superstar with Andrew Lloyd Webber?
10. What are the dangerous group of islands off Landís End called?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The electric chair; 2 Methuselah; 3 San José; 4 Ecstasy; 5 Kevin Keegan; 6 Oboe; 7 Tiger; 8 Zimbabwe; 9 Camelot; 10 A daffodil.

Niner: ARTICHOKE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9531	gives a heavenly body,
71678	gives a constellation,
438421	gives a star sign.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Make a night of it

Comedian Al Murray is on at the Theatre Severn tonight and we're calling time please. The Ticket's here to help you enjoy some laughs with the Pub Landlord giving you the lowdown on all the best places to be. . .

Severnth heaven – Al Murray is on at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury

MEAL TICKET

If true Brit Al Murray was heading out for eats before the gig, he would probably head to the nearest traditional boozer for some good old fashioned pub grub. Happy days as The Foundry is on site at the theatre and is all about British food. With dishes on the menu such as chicken liver pâté to start followed by rump steak with triple cooked chips or chicken supreme with creamy mash you're spoilt for choice. There are some tasty desserts too. . . spiced orange cake or brownie with chocolate sauce. Yum, yes please. If you fancy doing an 'Al Murray U-turn' when it comes to fodder, try some foreign fare at Bistro Jacques. It's fine French dining with rustic dishes that will have you saying bonjour for more.

IN THE DRINK

Where would Pub Landlord Al Murray go before a night out? A typical stop off for a quick pint and a packet of crisps would be The Coach and Horses in the town centre. The traditional and cosy Victorian pub is tucked away on a side street, Swan Hill, and is an authentic British boozer with a small side snug and a lounge bar to kick back and relax. Small sherry for the ladies?

SLEEP ON IT

If you fancy a sleepover after a night of belly laughs then there are several options in the pretty riverside town.

BARGAIN BUNK-UP

For the more cash-strapped gig-goer the best place to lay your weary head would be the Premier Inn in the centre of Shrewsbury. It's easy to get to as it's a stone throw from the theatre over the other side of the river, so you can enjoy a nice gentle walk before bed. With rooms from £41 a night it won't break the bank and you'll be sure to have some spare cash for more theatre tickets.

SPEND, SLEEP, REPEAT

If you fancy a more luxurious night of kip then book in to the four-star Prince Rupert Hotel in the town centre. It's a gentle stroll from the theatre and has plenty of fancy room options with many having views of the historic and famous 12th Century St. Alkmund's Church and the Tudor Bear Steps or overlooking the 12th Century Mansion House courtyard garden. Visit the website to get the best price. Treat yourself!

DRIVE TIME

WHEEL DEAL

The best way to get to Theatre Severn is by driving. Good news is that it's located right next to Frankwell Car Park and you'll only have to pay before 6pm, so it's perfect for showtime and will avoid additional expense. If you're using a SatNav just type in the postcode SY3 8HQ and it will get you straight to the theatre. For more information about the venue visit **www.theatresevern.co.uk**

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Closing date 17th March 2017

TO SPEND WITH AN ADVERTISER WHO HAS APPEARED ON THIS PAGE

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the questions in this panel which relate to the adverts on this page.

Send your answers to the address on the coupon.

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

1.What is the missing word from the advert "We supply and fit all ..... of fencing & slabbing?

.....

2.Which advertiser is based in Rhayader?

.....

3.With which advertiser can you Buy 5 Windows for £775?

.....

4.Where can you Buy 25 Kilos of Onions for £5.99?

.....

5.What is the Freephone Tel. Number for Ryedale Cleaning Services?

Send your entries to Barry Burrell (17th March 2017) Express & Star, Black Country House Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Mr/Mrs/Miss.....First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....Tel NoEmail.....

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature.....

I would like to spend my prize money with.....

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 17th March 2017. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

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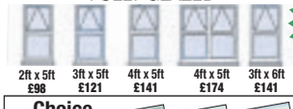

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Three-bedroomed home in popular neighbourhood

A mid terrace property, 44 Pargeter Road, Smethwick, lies in a popular, convenient neighbourhood, handy for shopping at Bearwood Town Centre and Warley Woods and the golf course.

Ideally placed for commuting to Birmingham City Centre and the surrounding area, it is for sale through humberstones homes at £139,950.

Pargeter Road is a popular residential road. The property has gas radiator heating. Its accommodation briefly comprises on the ground floor of an entrance hall, a lounge and separate dining room, an inner hall, a kitchen and a shower/wet room.

Off the first floor are three bedrooms and outside is a pleasant rear garden.

In more detail a porch covers the entrance to the property. The entrance hall has doors off to the lounge and dining/sitting room.

The sitting room/dining room has a bay window to the front and a picture rail. The lounge has a window to the rear, a picture rail and fire surround and a door leading to the inner hall. This has stairs off to the first floor and an under-stairs storage cupboard.

The kitchen has a window to the side, a single drainer sink with a cupboard below, a work surface area, one double wall cupboard, plumbing for an automatic washing machine, a gas cooker point, a single-glazed door to the side providing access to the rear garden, and further door leads through to the shower/wet room. This has a window to the side, a WC, wash hand basin, a shower fitment and complementary wall tiling.

Off the first floor landing is loft access and doors to all the bedrooms.

Bedroom one has a window to the front. Bedroom two has a window to the rear. Bedroom three has a window to the rear and a built-in storage cupboard housing the central heating boiler.

Outside, the front garden has steps and a pathway approach and there is a shared side entry.

To the rear is a pleasant rear garden with a lawn area, a path, shrubbed border and a garden shed.

KEY FEATURES

- 3 bedrooms
- Mid terrace
- Popular area
- Near town centre
- Close to Warley Woods & golf course

SMETHWICK £139,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: humberstones homes

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EMAIL: bearwood@humberstoneshomes.co.uk

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Drayton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Stunning First Floor Bathroom
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £154,950

Loxley Road, Bearwood

- Stylish Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- First Floor Bathroom & Ground Floor WC
- Situated In The Heart Of Bearwood
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £194,950

Galton Road, Bearwood

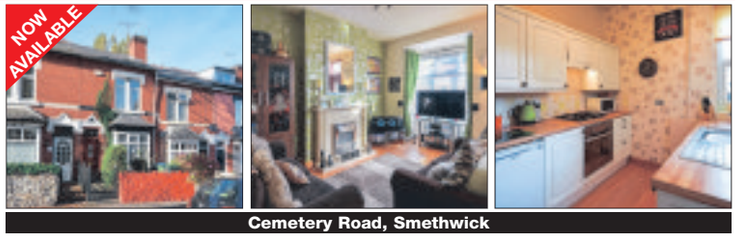
- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £219,950

Mariner Avenue, Edgbaston

- Beautifully Presented Mid Terrace
- Ideally Situated For Acces To The City Centre
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen And Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £199,950



Cemetery Road, Smethwick

- Ideal First Purchase
- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Beautifully Presented
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,500

Portland Road, Edgbaston

- Dormer Bugalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offeres in the region of £249,950

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in excess of £190,000

Elsma Road, Oldbury

- Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £199,950

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Paul Dubberley

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GREAT BRIDGE

Dudley Road, Oldbury, B69
£112,500

Good Size End Terrace offering the benefit of Upvc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, No Upward Chain, excellent First Time Purchase. Ggood size plot with the added advantage of the extension potential. 2 Bedrooms

Swancote Road, Dudley, DY1
£89,950

Spacious Semi Detached Family Home, Improved accommodation, gas central heating, upvc double glazing and no upward chain. Ideally situated close to Dudley Town Centre with all amenities close. 3 Bedrooms

Clarkes Grove, Tipton, DY4
£425,000

Rare Opportunity To Acquire an Unique Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home set in substantial grounds, plus the added advantage of previous outline planning Permission for the construction of 3 additional Dwellings.

Gate Street, Tipton, DY4
£210,000

Modern Detached Having Garage Conversion Into Extra Bedroom Plus Wet Room. Offering upvc double glazing, gas central heating. 5 Bedrooms

St Michaels Way, TIPTON, DY4
£155,000

Superbly Presented Modern Family Home for which viewing is highly recommended. upvc double glazing, solar panels, fitted alarm gas central heating, situated in a great location close to the canal basin. 3 Bedrooms

Charlotte Close, Tividale, Oldbury, B69
£115,000

Modern Middle Terrace Offering Immaculate Internal Accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended. Having the benefit of gas central heating, upvc double glazing and sought after location. 2 Bedrooms

Brickhouse Lane South, Tipton, DY4
£60,000

Modern Purpose Built Second Floor Apartment having the benefit of upvc double glazing, security entrance doors and offering no upward chain. Ideal buy to let investment. 2 Bedrooms

Brookfield Way, Tipton, DY4
£154,950

Modern DETACHED Which Has Been Made Considerably Bigger with LOFT CONVERSION and GARAGE CONVERSION. Having the benefit of upvc Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. 4 Bedrooms

Haden Road, TIPTON, DY4
£225,000

Superb Detached Dormer Bungalow On A Most Sought After Location. Ideal Family Home which must be viewed. Upvc Double Glazing, gas central Heating and Spacious Family Accommodation. 3 Bedrooms

Gough Drive, Tipton, DY4
£99,995

Modern Purpose Built Luxury First Floor Apartment, upvc double glazing, electric heating, security entrance doors. Ideally located fo rail, local amenities. superbly presented accommodation. 2 Bedrooms ● En Suite.

Bustleholme Lane, West Bromwich, B71
£310,000

A four bedroom detached property comprising, entrance hall, two reception rooms, dining room, kitchen, downstairs W/C, upstairs bathroom. central heating and double glazing, parking and garage

Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich, B71
£245,000

A five bedroom traditional style semi-detached house comprising of two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking

Churchfields Way, West Bromwich, B71
£220,000

A modern three bedroom semi-detached house comprising of an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, kitchen, lounge, upstairs family bathroom, en-suite shower room, central heating and doouble glazing and garage

Church Vale, West Bromwich, B71
£175,000

A beautifully designed, traditional 3 bed property, which must be viewed internally to be appreciated. Is this your ideal family home??

Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich, B71
£160,000

In one of the most popular parts of West Bromwich but requiring some cosmetic improvement, this is a three bedroom traditional style semi detached house

Tame Street, West Bromwich, B70
£140,000

A two bedroom mid terraced property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating

Grange Road, West Bromwich, B70
£135,000

An opportunity to acquire a spacious 3 bedroom mid terrace property located within walking distance of West Bromwich Town Centre, tram links and major commuting routes.

Summerlee Road, Birmingham, B24
£125,000

A three bedroom semi detached house with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprising of a porch, lounge, kitchen, hallway, downstairs bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and a garage

Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, B70
£115,000

A three bedroom mid terraced house briefly comprising of a shared porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen and a downstairs bathroom.

Overton Place, West Bromwich, B71
£90,000

A two bedroom first floor maisonette situated in a popular area of West Bromwich and within a reasonable walking distance of Sandwell Hospital. Could this be your first investment property??

0121 522 3733 tipton@pauldubberley.co.uk
73 Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7HF

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Paul Dubberley

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WEDNESBURY

Birmingham Street, Wednesbury, WS10
£180,000

VIEWING HIGHLY ADVISED TO FULLY APPRECIATE THIS WONDERFULLY MAINTAINED TRADITIONAL STYLE DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERED TO THE MARKET WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN

Blakedon Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£100,000

COMING SOON .....ATTENTION INVESTORS AND FIRST TIME BUYERS. Offered for sale is a three bedroom semi-detached property in need of refurbishment,

Barlow Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£85,000

PUBLIC NOTICE Paul Dubberley are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £88,500 for 51 Barlow Road, Wednesbury WS10 9QB. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Paul Dubberley

Large Avenue, WEDNESBURY, WS10
£179,950

EXTENDED FAMILY HOME OFFERING four bedrooms situated on a generous corner plot and located in a cul-de-sac, comprising of through lounge, fitted kitchen diner , family bathroom, separate shower room,

Woden Road North, Wednesbury, WS10
£145,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate the accommodation on offer this family home situated in a popular residential area of Wednesbury close to all local amenities

Rooth Street, Wednesbury, WS10
£240,000

Beautifully presented semi-detached property having spacious accommodation throughout. Located close to Wednesbury town centre, motorway links and all local amenities

Old Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£150,000

A lovely 3 bedroom FAMILY HOME OFFERING NO CHAIN. The property is in a popular location surrounded by local ameneties and schools.

Cobham Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£120,000

A WELL PRESENTED END TERRACE PROPERTY BENEFITING FROM OFF ROAD PARKING & A CONSERVATORY. Accommodation further features three bedrooms, lounge, modern style kitchen & first floor

St Lukes Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£69,950

Fantastic 1 bedroom ground floor apartment with its own entrance porch offers modern decor, great transport links and conveniently close to all local shops and schools

Shaftesbury Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£125,000

VIEWING STRONGLY ADVISED. TRADITIONAL three bedroom semi detached residence offering OFF ROAD PARKING in a very SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION with an ATTRACTIVE OUTLOOK.

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury, WS10
£170,000

NO UPWARD CHAIN! A MODERN STYLE DETACHED PROPERTY OFFERING ACCOMMODATION PRESENTED TO A HIGH STANDARD

Kent Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£135,000

EXTENDED SEMI - DETACHED & NO UPWARD CHAIN. This well presented property comprises of off road parking to the front, extended kitchen diner, two bedrooms and family bathroom to the first floor, third

Cope Street
£105,000

DOUBLE FRONTED TRADITIONAL LIVING - A mid terrace house comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, first floor bathroom, kitchen & enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS ADVISED TO FULLY

Charlotte Road, Wednesbury, WS10
£110,000

End-terraced 3 BEDROOM home with a REAR EXTENSION, property has OFF ROAD PARKING to the front, is close to all local amenities and GREAT TRANSPORT LINKS. Offering NO CHAIN

Blenheim Drive, Wednesbury, WS10
£85,000

Modern TWO BEDROOM 2nd floor apartment. Close to all local amenities and GREAT TRANSPORT LINKS

Vicar Street, Wednesbury, WS10
£109,950

TRADITIONAL END TERRACED property with 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS. The property is located close to Wednesbury town, has great transport links being close to the MOTORWAY, BUS ROUTES AND THE TRAM.

0121 505 3533 wednesbury@pauldubberley.co.uk
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PROPERTY

Semi-detached has scope for two-storey extension

This extended two-bedroomed semi-detached house in Pryor Road, Oldbury, has garage foundations sufficient for a two-storey extension to be created.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £179,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a porch, entrance hall and under-stairs storage cupboard, a front sitting room, rear sitting room and dining area, a kitchen, utility/conservatory, shower room, two bedrooms, dressing room and a bathroom, garage and gardens with a summer house and a side verandah. It is in need of general updating. Call Tom Giles & Co on 0121 552 6171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

OLDBURY
£179,950

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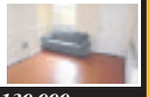
City Road, BIRMINGHAM

Semi detached property comprising, entrance hallway, three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, shower room, four bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens, driveway.

Offers Around £265,000

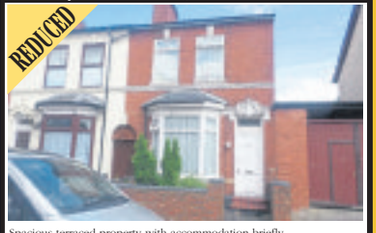
Ashbourne Road, BIRMINGHAM

Mid terraced property comprising, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!!



Offers Around £130,000

Sycamore Road, SMETHWICK



Spacious terraced property with accommodation briefly comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.

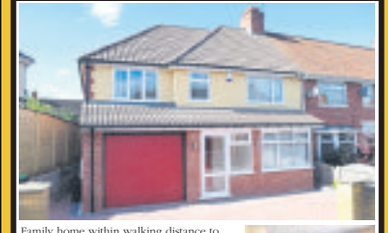
Offers Around £145,000

Pargeter Road, BEARWOOD

Terraced property comprising, vestibule, through lounge, refitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, upstairs toilet, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £175,000

Pheasant Road, BEARWOOD



Family home within walking distance to Warley Woods Comprising a porch, two reception rooms, extended kitchen/Diner, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (master en suite), refitted family bathroom, front driveway, rear garden, garage

Offers Around £289,950

Kirby Road, WINSON GREEN

Refurbished mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £94,950

Rathbone Road, BEARWOOD

Mid terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £170,000

Harvest Road, SMETHWICK

An extended refurbished semi detached property comprising, five bedrooms (master en suite), box room, two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, ground floor shower room, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway for 6/7 cars.

Offers Around £249,950

Offices at:
12 Abbey Road, Bearwood, B67 5RD 33-35 Cape Hill, Smethwick, B66 4RX

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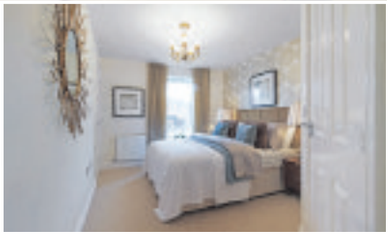

CGI of The Ludworth. Photographs of typical Kier showhome interiors. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions. †Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

TOM GILES & Co

E: general@tomgiles.net www.tomgiles.net
Oldbury T: 0121 552 6171

NEW

3 TIVIDALE WEST AVENUE £144,950
1 MUST BE SEEN! Ideal first time purchase. Semi-detached house offering good sized family accommodation situated in a popular and convenient residential location and overlooking Oakham Primary School. Double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating C
1

NEW

2 TIPTON ANITA AVENUE £114,950
1 Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Modern semi-detached house with double glazing and gas central heating on popular Tividale Quays Development. Internal inspection recommended. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
1

NEW

2 OLDBURY NEWBURY LANE £104,950
2 In need of improvement and modernisation and offering an ideal INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, an extended semi-detached house situated on a corner location with the potential for further extension to the side subject to planning. Conveniently situated for all amenities. EPC
1

NEW

2 OLDBURY SHIRLEY ROAD £84,950
2 Terraced house in need of general improvement and modernisation and in popular and convenient location. Central heating, double glazing, rear garden and outside toilet. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
1

REDUCED

3 OLDBURY FOREST ROAD £249,950
1 A superbly presented and modernised traditional semi-detached house situated within one the areas most Premier locations. Offering excellent family accommodation including dining kitchen with island and bi-fold doors overlooking rear garden and southerly
1

2 WEST BROMWICH SANDWELL ROAD NORTH £209,950
1 A detached bungalow situated within half a mile of Sandwell Valley Country Park & Dartmouth Park benefitting from central heating, double glazing, private rear garden and garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
1

2 OLDBURY PRYOR ROAD £179,950
2 Extended semi-detached house with the benefit of a conservatory and dressing room, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden with summer house, garage and parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D.
1

3 ROWLEY REGIS BLACKBERRY LANE £135,000
2 The opportunity to acquire an extended end of terraced house in need of slight improvement with potential for further extension to the side subject to planning approval. Central heating, double glazing, side garage/store and private rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E
1

3 OLDBURY EAST AVENUE £119,950
1 Terraced house in need of general updating offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity with the benefit of central heating, double glazing, garden to front, parking at rear and low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D
1

TO LET

3 SMETHWICK ABBEY ROAD £725 pcm
2 The opportunity to let a well presented good sized terraced house with the benefit of central heating and private garden at rear. Deposit £1000. EPC Rating E. Admin charges apply
1

TO LET

3 TIPTON NEWCOMEN DRIVE £600 pcm
1 Modern mid-terraced property in quiet cul-de-sac warranting full inspection. Central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, off-road parking. Deposit - £800. EPC Rating C
1

TO LET

3 WEST BROMWICH LAW STREET £575 pcm
2 A recently fully re-decorated and re-carpeted mid-terraced property offering potential long-term let and benefitting from central heating and double glazing. Deposit £800. EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply
1

TO LET

2 WILLENHALL FLETCHER ROAD £525 pcm
2 A deceptively spacious two bedroomed semi-detached property benefitting from central heating, double glazing, downstairs W.C., off-road parking. Deposit £720. EPC Rating D. Admin charges apply
1

Contact us for a FREE VALUATION T: 0121 552 6171

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humberstones homes

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SOLD STC

PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

NO UPWARD CHAIN - in the heart of BEARWOOD close to BOTH Warley Woods & Lightwoods Park in SOUGHT AFTER road. 26ft lounge diner with 15ft kitchen to rear. 3 bedrooms & bathroom with WHITE SUITE on 1st floor. Mature gardens with PRIVATE aspect. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing fitted. EPC rating: E

£179,950

NEW

FITZ ROY AVENUE, HARBORNE

●●MUST BE VIEWED●● - SUPERBLY refurbished DETACHED bungalow in SOUGHT AFTER area in Harborne. REFITTED 19ft kitchen diner with utility room to side. SPACIOUS 15ft lounge. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED LUXURY shower room. GARAGE & driveway. NEW UPVC double glazing & NEW gas central heating. FLAT lawned rear garden. EPC rating: TBC

£395,000

NEW

PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

3 BED mid terrace in POPULAR location close to WARLEY WOODS in need of some modernisation with GREAT POTENTIAL. Offering lounge & SEPARATE dining room, kitchen. shower/wet room on ground floor. PLEASANT rear garden. Must be viewed. EPC rating D.

£139,950

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OUR PROMINENT HIGH STREET, BEARWOOD BRANCH.

NEW

KINGSWAY, OLDBURY

EXTENDED well presented home with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having 27ft lounge diner with REFITTED 19ft breakfast kitchen to rear. REFITTED d/s shower room & utility area. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front, garden to rear. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating: E

£190,000

NEW

ARTHUR HARRIS CLOSE, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS end terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC position. CONSERVATORY to rear & 14ft lounge. Kitchen to front. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom. DRIVEWAY giving off road parking to front. Gas central heating fitted. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C

£120,000

NEW

OAK ROAD, OLDBURY

EXTENDED semi-detached home in SOUGHT AFTER location. 21ft EXTENDED lounge with separate dining room. EXTENDED 11ft kitchen. Utility to side & d/s WET ROOM to front. 3 bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. Low maintenance garden to rear. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

£189,950

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Meadow Brook Road, Bournville

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- IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION AREAS
- SEPARATE DINING ROOM
- EXPANSIVE MODERN KITCHEN

Offers in the Region Of £299,950.00

Poplar Rise, Tividale

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE
- GARAGE WITH OFF ROAD PARKING
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £279,950.00

Dudley Road East, Tividale

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- NEUTRAL DECOR THROUGHOUT
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- EPC RATING: C

Offers in Excess of £199,950.00

Milcote Road, Smethwick

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACED HOME
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- EPC RATING: E

Offers In Excess Of £169.950.00

College Road, Kingstanding

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOUSE
- TWO LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS
- NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN
- TWO CARPETED DOUBLE BEDROOMS

Guide Price £139,950.00

Bessborough Road, Yardley

- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACED HOME
- QUIET RESIDENTIAL AREA
- DRIVEWAY FOR OFF ROAD PARKING
- WALKING DISTANCE OF LOCAL PARKS

Offers in Excess of £129,950.00

Anvil Drive, Oldbury

- MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACED
- REAL WOOD FLOORING IN THE LOUNGE
- LOCATED IN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- TWO OFF ROAD PARKING BAYS

£124,950.00

Queen Elizabeth Road, Nuneaton

- MODERN TWO BED COACH HOUSE
- SITUATED IN A QUIET RESEDENTIAL AREA
- CONTEMPORARY STYLE FITTED KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZED

Offers in Excess of £99,950.00

Oberon Grove, Wednesbury

- TWO BEDROOM MODERN APARTMENT
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE WITH GREAT VIEW
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE
- EPC RATING: C

Guide Price £99,950.00

Endwood Court, Handsworth

- THREE BEDROOM FLAT WITH TWO BALCONIES
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE / DINING AREA
- MASTER BEDROOM INCLUDES FITTED STORAGE
- UNDERFLOOR HEATING FEATURES

£99,950.00

Highbury Road, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- OPEN PLAN LIVING ROOM AND CONSERVATORY
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM

Offers in Excess of £234,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Fixed £219,950.00

Winchester Road, West Bromwich

- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING FOR TWO CARS
- NICELY DECORATED THROUGHOUT
- EPC RATING: TBC

Offers in Excess of £104,950.00

Cateswell Road, Sparkbrook

- FOUR BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £214,950.00

Old College Avenue, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM MODERN TOWN HOUSE
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE/ DINING AREA
- LANDSCAPED GARDENS/ REAR DECKING
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE ON LEVEL 2

Guide Price £174,950.00

Wesley Avenue, Halesowen

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOME
- LOCATED IN A CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- SUPERB STANDARD INTERNALLY
- EPC: TBC

£144,950.00

Bell Barn Road, Birmingham City Centre

- TWO BEDROOM CITY APARTMENT
- OPEN PLAN LIVING SPACE
- BALCONY
- AVAILABLE FROM 29.2.2017

Monthly Rental Of £925.00

Signals Drive, Coventry

- SECOND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- WALK IN WARDROBE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- JULIET STYLE BALCONY

Monthly Rental Of £795.00

Regan Drive, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- WORKING PROFESSIONALS ONLY
- LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- AVAILABLE 20.2.2017

Monthly Rental Of 795.00

Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston

- MODERN TWO BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- AVAILABLE 25.2.17

Monthly Rental Of £750.00

Hargate Lane, West Bromwich

- DETACHED THREE BEDROOM HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY AREA
- GROUND FLOOR SHOWER CLOSET

Monthly Rental Of £625.00

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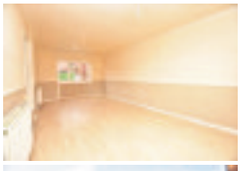
Halesowen

Merrivale Road
* Attractive Semi-Detached House
* Dining Room, Lounge & Conservatory
* Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom & Garage
* Three Bedrooms
* Bathroom with both Bath & Shower Cubicle
*Pleasant Gardens, Internal Inspection Recommended EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £195,000

Oldbury



Tame Rise
* Ideal for Investors or First Time Buyers
* Terraced house
* Through living room
* Three bedrooms
* Bathroom and wc
* Off road parking to rear
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £114,950

Quinton

Pitman Road
* Mid Terraced House
* Three Bedrooms and Bathroom
* Kitchen/Dining Room and Living Room
* Pleasant Rear Garden
* No Upward Chain
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £134,950

Quinton

High Street
* Deceptively Spacious Extended Four Bedroom Semi Detached
* Two Reception Rooms
* Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Bathroom
* Ensuite Shower Room
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £255,000

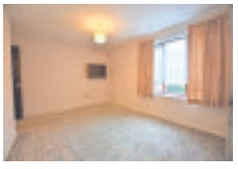
Droitwich

St. Peters Crescent
* Popular location
* Semi-detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Through living room comprising dining room and living room
* Conservatory
* Good sized rear garden EPC=E
Offers in the region of £219,950

Halesowen Romsley

Romsley Hill Grange
Farley Lane
* Ground floor apartment
* Kitchen/dining room
* Two Bedrooms
* Living room
* Re-fitted shower room
* Communal gardens EPC=E
Offers in the region of £209,950

Oldbury

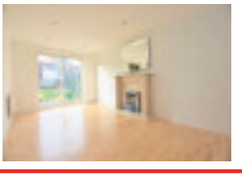


Perry Court
Hagley Road West
* Self contained retirement flat
* Living room
* Kitchen
* Two bedrooms
* Bathroom
EPC=C
Offers in excess of £70,000

Oldbury

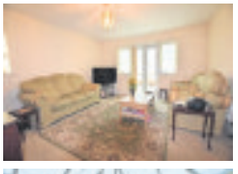
Farm Road
* Spacious Terraced House
* Three First Floor Bedrooms
* Well Proportioned Refitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
* Two Reception Rooms
* Extended Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Rear Garden EPC=D
Offers in the region of £149,950

Oldbury



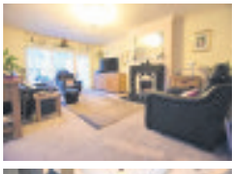
Kingsway
* Modern three storey family home
* Four good sized bedrooms (master with en-suite)
* Through living room
* Kitchen/dining room
* Garage
* No upward chain EPC=C
Offers in the region of £265,000

Oldbury



Hanover Gardens
* Modern semi-detached bungalow
* Well proportioned accommodation
* Two bedrooms
* Shower room
* Conservatory
* Detached garage
EPC=C
Offers in excess of £180,000

Halesowen



Inkberrow Road
* Re-Planned Family Home
* Three Bedrooms
* Kitchen & Utility
* Well Appointed Bathroom & Additional W.C
* Pleasant Rear Garden
* Popular Residential Location
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £229,950

Oldbury

Oak Road
* Dining room
* Living room
* Former garage/family room
* Kitchen and utility
* Bedroom two with en-suite
* Four further bedrooms
* Family bathroom EPC=D
Offers in the region of £309,950

Stourbridge

Wollaston Road, New Wood,
* An improved detached family house with open aspect * Four bedrooms with two en-suites and bathroom
* Dining area, lounge leading to conservatory
* Fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom
* Garage * Landscaped garden
* A must view property EPC=C
Offers in the region of £489,950

Halesowen

Firth Drive
* Cul de sac location.
* Three bedroom semi detached.
* Living room and kitchen/dining room.
* Off road parking
EPC=G
Offers in the region of £119,950

Quinton

Ridgacre Road West
* Extended 3 bedroom semi-detached.
* Extended kitchen
* Utility and downstairs WC
* Through lounge and additional reception room/potential bedroom four
* Garage
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £209,950

Halesowen

Victoria Avenue
* Family house in desirable location
* In need of general modernisation and improvement * Principal bedroom with dressing room * Bedroom two with study area opening off * Bedroom three * Dining hall, lounge, sitting room * Kitchen/breakfast room
* Extensive gardens EPC=E
Offers in the region of £340,000

Halesowen

Blackberry Lane
* A detached family house with four bedrooms
* Desirable residential location with open aspect at rear * Lounge, dining room and study
* Principal bedroom with en-suite
* Fitted kitchen with host of appliances, utility room and fitted cloakroom * Detached double garage, lovely gardens EPC=C
Offers in the region of £380,000

Halesowen

Manor Abbey Road
* Superior Family Home * Substantially Extended & Re-Planned * Finished to a Good Specification * Five Bedrooms (Two with Ensuite Shower Rooms) * 'Wow' Factor Kitchen/Breakfast/Family Room * Well Appointed Family Bathroom with Shower * Good-Sized Rear Garden * Must Be Viewed EPC=D
Offers in the region of £530,000

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1 | 2
1 | EPC C

Consort Drive, Wednesbury
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1 | 1
1 | EPC D

Willenhall Street, Wednesbury
£110,000

2 | 3
1 | EPC E

Addison Street, Wednesbury
Offers £120,000

2 | 3
1 | EPC D

Walnut Lane, Wednesbury
£139,950

3 | 2
1 | EPC C

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By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £85,000.
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Julia Gardens, West Bromwich
£160,000

2 | 3
1 | EPC E

Hardy Road, Wednesbury
£170,000

1 | 3
1 | EPC D

Vicarage Road, Wednesbury
Offers £235,000

2 | 3
1 | EPC C

Upper Church Lane, Tipton
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£425 PCM

1 | 1
1 | EPC F

Downes Court, Tipton
Fees Apply
£495 PCM

1 | 2
1 | EPC D

Ashtree Road, Oldbury
Fees Apply
£650 PCM

1 | 3
1 | EPC D

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Install A band condensing boiler with free wireless room stat from £1250
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• Flat Roof Repaired or Renewed
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Plumbing

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All installations and repairs
Supply and fit or fit only
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No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes
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We load, No Skips
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Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Index

1 Family
2 Leisure Time
3 Home & Services
4 Pets & Animals
5 Business & Farming
6 Property
7 Jobs
8 Motoring
9 Local Information
10 Personals

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1 Family

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MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

2 Leisure Time

boats & water sports

CANALBOAT 55FT Stern cruiser, dinette layout, includes fridge and freezer, full size gas cooker, £39,000 ono. 01922 443287.

car boot sales

Indoor Car Boot Sale.
Saturday 11th March
Walsall FC Supporters Club
Bescot Crescent, WS1 4TS
Doors open - Sellers 9am / Buyers 10am
Entry 30p / Tables £5 & £7.50
Booked on 01922 621179

CAR BOOT SALE
Saturday, March 11,
8am - 12 noon
St Peter's Church Hall.
Whitehall Road,
West Bromwich.
To book a stall call 07903 754123.

INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE
ST. MARKS CHURCH HALL,
Thimblemill Road
Smethwick.
Saturday, March 11.
12 noon - 2pm.

music shop

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Excellent condition, fully galvanised chassis, 4 berth, complete with awning, waste and water containers.
£4,000 ovno.
01785 663353.

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Excellent condition, end shower plus toilet, cooker, fridge, sink, pull out awning.
£1,500.
07733 063247. 01543 505955.
Cannock

STATIC FOR SALE
3 bedroom, 2 wc, shower, large modern fitted kitchen and living space. Dining area. Shed at rear. 36ft x12ft.
Tywyn, Snowdonia.
£10,000 ono.
07702 093474.

TOURING CARAVAN
Bailey Pageant Auvergne, 5 berth, 1995. Good condition new gas connector, water hog, battery, mains cable, water pump. No leaks. Full awning.
£1,200 ono.
07793 005111.

sports & leisure

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holidays

caravan parks

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what's on

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FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
8.00 AM - 3.30 PM
07783 680 627

markets

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3 Home & Services

furniture

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katharine house hospice — enhancing life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

FURNITURE NOT SOLD why not donate it to care for patients at Katharine House Hospice. Call us now on 01785 760715

ONE ROUND EXTENDING Dining table, 4 padded chairs, full dresser with glass doors, very good condition. £500 ono. 07981 119963.

THREE SEATER recliner, plus a chair recliner, red/grey, La-Z-Boy, only 4 years old, excellent condition, £300. 07913 258595.

household appliances

AMAZING SALE Autos, tumble dryers from £79. Gas & electric cookers, fires, fridge freezers, built in ovens & hobs at sale price 01902 403770 Past and Present 24-26 Church St, Bilston (opp town hall).

BOSCH WASHING machine, 7k load, 1400rpm, white, very good condition, £85. 01922 402172.

in your garden

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Credit cards taken • Free quotes
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Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
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07956 627367

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Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
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CLIENT COMPUTERS

Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

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All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
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FREE QUOTES
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JR Bathrooms
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations.
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FREE QUOTES
20% off throughout March!
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

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aerials

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Work Guaranteed
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01384 429166
01543 439095
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CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

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fencing

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83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

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www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

gas fitting

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• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
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Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

handyman services

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FREE QUOTES
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0121 6010479

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House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
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A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
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Garage and sheds cleared.
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Ironing Services - Stafford
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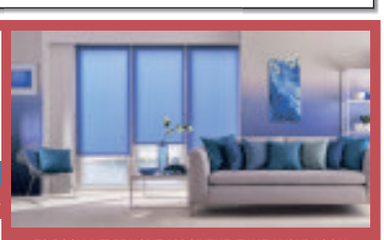

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*Ts & Cs apply

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

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Call Will for a free quote
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Bill - TV Link

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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DALMATIAN PUPPIES KC Reg, Stafford area. 07952 807758 / 07816 378625.

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5 Business & Farming

business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

overseas property

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Sandwell College West Bromwich

Painter and Decorator/Handyman

37 hours per week
Permanent
£16,078-£18,460 per annum

We have a fantastic opportunity for a Painter/Handyman to join our current Estates team to undertake and complete maintenance and refurbishment work, mostly of a decorating nature, although at times work of associated trades will be necessary. You will hold a minimum Level 2 Painting and Decorating qualification. You will be a hardworking professional, who holds occupational experience of successful Painting and Decorating with the ability to deliver excellent customer service skills.

Please go to our vacancies page,
http://www.latestvacancies.com/sandwell/
for further information.

Sandwell College is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks. We aim to develop a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve and positively encourage applications form all.

Closing Date: 10 March 2017

WOOD GREEN ACADEMY

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury,
West Midlands, WS10 9QU
Tel 0121 5564131 • www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk

Vacancy: ICT Systems Assistant Manager

SALARY SCALE: Band E (£23,166-£27,394)
HOURS: 37 hours per week
CONTRACT: Fixed - 2 years, in the first instance

Our Outstanding Academy is looking to appoint an innovative and well qualified person to assist the ICT Systems Manager. Reporting to the ICT Systems Manager, they will be responsible for providing IT support to end users together with assistance, training and professional development.

In addition to your helpdesk duties you will use your experience in the latest server technologies to assist the ICT Systems Manager in various projects, including the installation, upgrade and on-going maintenance of the academies infrastructure.

Information regarding this post and the application form can be found on the school website: www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/about-us/vacancies.

Closing date: 9am Wednesday 15th March 2017

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

employment wanted

BRICKLAYERS FULLY experienced quality tradesmen require work. 07976 446049.

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8 Motoring

scrap vehicles

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£6,850 ono.

07748 410900.

FIAT PANDA ACTIVE 1.1

2008, 50,000 miles,
one owner,
service history,
excellent condition.

£1,650.

07977 939497.

FORD FOCUS 1.4LX

05, 41,000 miles, air con, fsh, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, park sensors, great condition, new tyres all round, new battery. First to see will buy.

£2,250 ono.

07545 581334.

DIESEL

KIA CARENS

54 plate,
2.0 diesel,
manual, 5 seater,
AC, parking sensors,
all electric windows,
one owner, fsh,
68k, MoT September.

£1,650 o.n.o.

07956 134518.

cars under £1500

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HYUNDAI i10
CLASSIC 1200cc.

March 2010 / 10 Plate. 5-door, Manual, 28,000 miles only, blue, service history, one lady owner from new, radio / CD. electric front windows, full MoT.

£3,100.

01543 671976. 07970 780726.

PEUGEOT 1007 1.4 DOLCE 8V

3-dr, 2006 Registered, 12 months MOT, Economical to run, Ideal 1st car.

£950 o.n.o

07956 717856

Please call after 5pm weekdays or any time weekends.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 207S

3-dr hatchback, 06, new shape.

Blue, 1360cc.

102,000 miles.

MoT till August.

Excellent condition throughout.

£1,200

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PEOPLE CARRIER

PEUGEOT 807 LX

2004 Reg.,
8 seater,
MoT to September 2017,
petrol.

£800 o.n.o.

07375 624574.

SUZUKI WAGON R+, 03, 92, 1.3 petrol, green, 4 months MoT, scratches, minor dents, new front tyres, runaround / spares, £200 ono. 07929 443360.

commercial vehicles

RENAULT MASTER L35 DCi, 120 drop panel van, MoT'd, excellent condition, 2008, £2,200 ono. 07880 723439.

motorbikes

DNEPR HISTORIC VEHICLE

1969 Motorcycle Combination. 750cc flat twin engine, with reverse gear. Last MoT 2 years ago, now held on SORN.

£2,750.

07811 279236.

vehicles wanted

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
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Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

REGINALD RUSHTON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 4 Parkfield Road Oldbury West Midlands B68 8PS, who died on 08/07/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 10/05/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West Almondsbury
Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: ATH/3897242P/Rushton) T495836

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Carnegie Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Carnegie Road, Rowley Regis between Admirals Way and Moor Lane. Traffic will be diverted via Ross, Powke Lane and Moor Lane. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 29/03/17, effective from 27/03/17. Purpose – repairs to a leaking water main by South Staffs Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Park Lane East, Tipton) (Temporary Road Closure No.2) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Park Lane East, Tipton (Station Street – Slater Road). Traffic will be diverted via Lower Church Lane, Dudley Port, Sedgley Road East, Victoria Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 09/04/17, effective from 27/03/17. Purpose – work to a railway bridge necessitating the use of scaffolding by Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Princess Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Princess Road, Oldbury (Salop Road – northern boundary of No.39 Princess Road, Oldbury). Traffic will be diverted via Salop Street, Edmonds Road, Valentine Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 20/04/17, effective from 30/03/17. Purpose – new gas connections by Balfour Beatty for National Grid.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Londonderry Lane, Smethwick) (Temporary One-Way Operation) Order 2017 intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Londonderry Lane, Smethwick between Queens Road and the side road also called Londonderry Lane other than in a westerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 06.00hrs on 24/03/17, effective from 20.00hrs on 23/03/17. Alternative route for east bound vehicles via Thimblemill Road, Hales Lane and Manor Road. Purpose – crane lift to enable access to telecoms equipment onto the Queens Head Public House by Beacon Communications.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2017 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich (Dial Lane – Hawkestone Road). Traffic will be diverted via Dial Lane, Ebenezer Street and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 31/03/17, effective from 13/03/17. Purpose – customer connection for Virgin Media by Comex 2000.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Haden Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2017 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along High Haden Road, Cradley Heath (between the two entrances to High Haden Crescent). Traffic will be diverted via High Haden Crescent. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 24/03/17, effective from 14/03/17. Purpose – works to istall a new link box by Western Power Distribution.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Jeffrey Road, Rowley Regis) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2017 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Jeffrey Road, Rowley Regis (Oldbury Road – Durham Road). Traffic will be diverted via Oldbury Road, Titford Lane, York Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work necessitating a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is expected to be completed by 16/04/17, effective from 16/03/17. Purpose – works to a gas main by Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

10 Personals

sports clubs

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School year 10.
Require a Goalkeeper and Outfield Players to strengthen current squad.
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CRESSWELL ALL STARS U9'S
School year 4.
Looking for a new Goalkeeper.
Contact Pardeep
07976 383814.

personal

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

RETIRED MALE
Young 72 year old, recently widowed, seeks lady to fill the lonely hours.
Days out, meals, holidays etc.
Cannock area preferred but can travel.
Photo appreciated.
(Returned).
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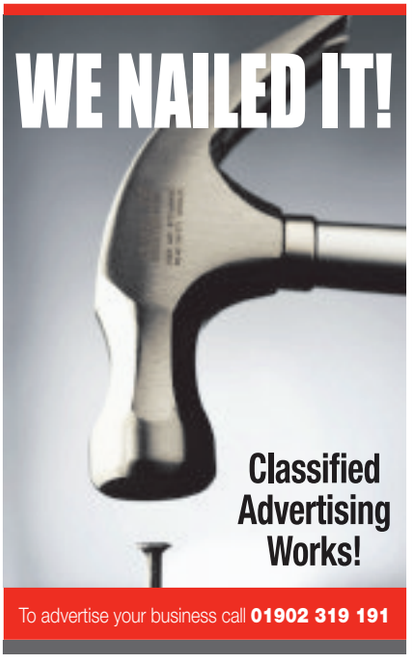

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Exciting times with latest Ford Performance models

Race car thrills are being transferred to the road

Ford has delivered its most exciting and comprehensive line-up of Ford Performance models ever.

Introducing an all-new 200 PS, three-cylinder 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine that will deliver an unprecedented combination of power and fuel efficiency, the next generation Fiesta ST is developed using the same Ford Performance innovation mindset that delivered the Ford GT ultra-high-performance supercar, on show in Ford GT '66 Heritage Edition livery for the first time in Europe at the Geneva Show.

Ford's Performance car offering in Europe also includes the Focus ST petrol and diesel models, the acclaimed Focus RS, and the iconic Ford Mustang. Ford Performance car sales grew a further 14 per cent year-on-year in January, after recording a 60 per cent increase in 2016 – continuing the momentum from 2015 when performance car sales were up 62 per cent.

"Accessible performance is at the heart of what we do at Ford," said Jim Farley, European chairman and CEO. "From the active aerodynamics of the Ford GT supercar to the Drive Modes of our next generation Fiesta ST, our Ford Performance models are developed using innovation that brings the driving thrill of our race cars to customers on the road."

Ford Performance serves as an innovation laboratory and test-bed to create unique performance vehicles, parts, accessories and experiences for customers. This

One of the latest Ford models to hit the road

includes developing innovations and technologies in aerodynamics, light-weighting, electronics, powertrain performance and fuel efficiency that can be applied more broadly to Ford products.

The third generation of Fiesta ST will be the first Ford Performance model ever powered by a three-cylinder engine and the first Fiesta ST to feature selectable Drive Modes.

Ford's all-new 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine will deliver 200PS, 290Nm of torque and anticipated 0-62mph acceleration in 6.7sec, using innovations including a new combination of port fuel injection and direct fuel injection, sophisticated turbocharging, and innovative new cylinder deactivation technology to deliver high power and responsiveness alongside reduced CO2 emissions.

New Drive Modes will enable engine, steering and stability controls to be configured to Normal, Sport and Track settings for an optimised fun-to-drive experience, and adjust the model's Electronic Sound Enhancement technology and active exhaust noise control valve to deliver an even more satisfying driving experience by amplifying the naturally sporty sound of the three-cylinder engine.

The next generation Fiesta ST also will be offered with a greater variety of interior trim and personalisation options than ever before, and will be available in both three-door and five-door bodystyles from early 2018.

The Ford GT is shown in limited edition Ford GT '66 Heritage Edition livery in Geneva. The model honours Ford's 1966 Le Mans victory, offering a Shadow Black exterior in either gloss or matte finish with silver stripes and exposed carbon fibre; Frozen White #2 hood and door graphics; and 20-inch one-piece forged aluminium wheels in a gold satin clearcoat with black lug nuts.

All Ford GT supercars feature a state-of-the-art 10-inch digital instrument display. The customisable screen features text and race-inspired graphics intended to help reduce driver distraction, and automatically reconfigures itself based on five unique Drive Modes: Normal mode, Wet mode, Sport mode, Track mode and V-Max mode.

The Ford GT's 3.5-litre V6 EcoBoost engine is SAE rated at 647hp and 550lb per ft of torque in U.S. specification. A top speed of 216mph makes the Ford GT the fastest Ford production vehicle on the track ever. The road-going Ford GT – featuring carbon fibre architecture and active aerodynamics – reflects the performance of the 2016 Le Mans 24 Hours-winning Ford Chip Ganassi Racing Ford GT race car.

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63 Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Blue Only 7000 Miles £9,495
15 Nissan Pulsar Diesel 1.5 dCi Acenta Red Only 8000 Miles..... £10,995
13 Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match Edition DSG Silver Only 9000 Miles..... £9,495
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64 Skoda Octavia 1.2 TSI S Blue Only 12000 Miles £9,495
64 Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Elite Brown Only 12000 Miles..... £9,295

Citroen
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11 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ EGS6 Blue 39k..... £7,995
63 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive ETG6 Grey 27k..... £9,995
63 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive Grey 20k..... £10,795
63 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Blue 69k..... £7,995
63 Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR+ Blue 25K £9,495
07 Citroen C4 PICASSO 1.8 VTR+ Black 58k £3,495
06 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k £11,995
57 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 62k..... £7,995
58 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 63K £6,495
13 Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream DSport Plus 3dr Red 21K..... £8,995
63 Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 VTR+ Silver 18K £11,495

Ford
63 Ford B-max Hatchback 1.6 Titanium Auto Grey 26k £7,995
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63 Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec Powershift Silver 28k..... £7,995
13 Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec 5dr Blue 14k..... £8,995
08 Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Titanium, Black, 93k £3,495
14 Ford Grand C-max 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5dr Blue 36k £10,995
07 Ford Mondeo Hatchback 1.8 Zetec Nav Blue 62k..... £1,795

Kia
60 Kia Rio 1.5 CRDi 2 5dr Silver 105K £2,795
13 Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 Silver 40k..... £10,995
62 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 White 39k £10,995
64 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 2.0 CRDi KX-2 Blue 18K..... £15,995
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Vauxhall
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58 Vauxhall Combo Tour 1.3 CDTi Easytronic Silver 81K £2,995
14 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRi 5dr (AC) Red 61K..... £5,995
60 Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16V (130) SE Silver 32k £5,995
63 Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design Nav Silver 40k..... £7,995
63 Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX Exclusiv Gold 42k..... £9,995
15 Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv Black 13k £11,495

Others
63 Audi A1 1.2 TFSI S Line 3dr White 30k £11,995
60 Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto Silver 36K..... £9,495
06 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC SE Blue 87k £2,995
63 Renault Captur 0.9 TCe Dynamique Nav Black 25k £8,995
63 Seat Ibiza 1.2 TSI SE 5dr DSG Silver 21K..... £7,495
63 Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE DSG (Tech Pack) Silver 33k £9,495
63 Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI 105 SE DSG Blue 27K £7,495
64 Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GTD DSG White 17K..... £17,995
06 Volvo S60 D5 SE 4dr Geartronic (185) Green 91k..... £3,795

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, March 9, 2017

Vauxhall launches three new models

Vauxhall this week revealed three all-new models at the Geneva Motor Show including the Insignia Grand Sport, Insignia Sports Tourer and Crossland X.

Following on from the previous generation, which won the European Car of the Year in 2009, and sold over 25,000 in the UK last year, the Insignia is based completely on a new vehicle architecture. Its revised proportions result in a more spacious interior, giving the car a more athletic appearance and an improved road stance.

There is a raft of top technologies that make driving the Insignia safer, more relaxing and more comfortable than before. Next-generation IntelliLux LED matrix lighting, Lane Keep Assist, Head-up Display and unique AGR-certified premium seats, front- and rear-seat heating and a heated wind screen are just some examples.

Outstanding infotainment and connectivity are also on board thanks to the latest generation IntelliLink systems and Vauxhall OnStar, which with the launch of the Insignia Grand Sport, will offer even more functionality for customers. New OnStar features allow occupants to book hotel rooms and search for suitable parking spots via an OnStar Advisor.

Crisp and compact on the outside, spacious and flexible on the inside, with unique two-tone paintwork and SUV-styling, Vauxhall's all-new Crossland X makes its debut.

While the Crossland X's recently-launched sibling, the Mokka X, has all-wheel-drive capability, is 70mm higher and has larger wheels for buyers with a taste for adventure, the Crossland X has a firm family focus, with a Tardis-like cabin providing high degrees of practicality and flexibility. And at just 4.21 metres in length the Crossland X is more compact than the Mokka X, and a full 16cm shorter than the Astra Hatch, offering owners greater convenience while driving and manoeuvring in towns and cities. Adding to Crossland X's urban appeal is an elevated seating position and an overall height, which is raised ten centimetres above the Astra's. Exceptional driver and passenger comfort has been an obvious priority for a car entering this class. The Crossland X has specially designed AGR-certified seats for the driver and front passenger, while rear passengers can adjust their seating position to increase leg room.

Additional innovations in the Crossland X make driving safer and more comfortable, and include a 180-degree panoramic rear-view camera, advanced park assist, forward collision alert with pedestrian detection and autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, speed sign recognition and side blind-spot alert, among others.

Vauxhall Exclusive allows customers to select their car in the colour of their choice. It also allows customers to decide on one of three distinctive paint finishes: tri-coat, metallic paint and pearl. In addition, Vauxhall Exclusive will offer further personalisation including leather options, a selection of wheels and decorative design elements.

Vauxhall's all-new Crossland X has all-wheel drive

The Grand Sport has outstanding infotainment

Vauxhall showcases in Switzerland include the new Insignia Sports Tourer with a raft of new technologies

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MNA

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Battle of the sexes on the green baize

THE Golden Cue Snooker Club in Bilston hosts a battle of the sexes tomorrow night (Friday).

Former world champion Ken Doherty will be checking in to play a series of exhibition frames with Dudley's 11-time women's world champion Reanne Evans.

The showdown is in aid of the Paul Hunter foundation and the duo will also be cueing off against a number of local players before the evening concludes with punters having the chance to team up alongside them.

The night has been organised by world snooker coach Andrew Highfield, who plays alongside Evans for Sedgley Ex-Service in the Staffs and West Midlands League and who is a close friend of Doherty.

The night will provide some last-minute practice for Evans, who was edged out 10-8 by Doherty in the 2015 World Championship qualifiers, as she prepares to defend her world title in Singapore. She will fly out the following morning.

"It promises to be a good night and there are still tickets up for grabs," said Highfield. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the Golden Cue club on 01902 404343 or from Lee Edwards on 07834 723836.

Legendary showmen globetrot to Brum

LEGENDARY basketball showmen the Harlem Globetrotters, bring their spectacular show to Birmingham next month during the United Kingdom leg of a 2017 world tour.

The players have shot hoops with President Obama and played with Manchester United and recently wrapped up a busy 90th year tour.

During the tour they named Pope Francis the ninth Honorary Harlem Globetrotter in team history, walked the runway at New York Fashion week and broke seven Guinness World Records. They also remixed the team's legendary theme song, Sweet Georgia Brown with the help of Grammy Award-winning producer/songwriter Teddy Riley.

Throughout their history, the Original Harlem Globetrotters have showcased their iconic talents in 122 countries and territories on six continents, often breaking down cultural and societal barriers while providing fans with their first-ever basketball experience.

Proud inductees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Globetrotters have entertained hundreds of millions of fans. They are at the Barclaycard Arena on April 14. Tickets are priced from £17.58. Call 0844 33 88 222

Riders rev up for the start of season

TESTING times lie ahead for British Superbike riders and teams as they split their time between the cold UK circuits and the warmer climes of Spain.

With less than a month before the BSB opener at Donington Park, Brierley Hill-born Michael Rutter is happy to wait until a week before the first race before declaring whether to run a superstock or superbike. He might even run both, depending on how testing goes.

"We're still waiting until after the final Donington Park test on March 23 and 24 before making a decision," he said. "We're also hoping to get a test date in Spain and we're happy to leave it until the last minute."

Meanwhile, the Wigley twins, aged 20, from Hednesford, will battle it out on two different fronts. Kurt will race in the British Superstock 600 championship, on his Yamaha R6, but Matt has decided to step up an engine size for the British Superstock 1000 class on a new Kawasaki ZX10R.

Josh Hiatt, 14, from Heath Hayes, is making the step up to race in the British KTM Cup after turning down the chance to return to the Metrakit series or join the Aprilla Championships.

Jez Moxey and Sir Jack Hayward are spectators at Bilston

Nostalgia trip to get Town's old boys in the book

BILSTON TOWN are looking for some help as they plan a trip down memory lane.

The West Midlands League outfit want to put tales from the club's past down in print and are calling on fans, former players and committee members to come forward with their anecdotes, memories and special moments from the Steelmen's past.

Local author and club historian Jay Hearst has been commissioned to follow up the successful 'History of Bilston Town FC' book he penned in 2015 with a publication based on the more human side of Bilston Town, rather than its factual past. And chairman Graham Hodson is keen to spread the word.

He said: "Christmas 2015 saw us publish a book, written by Jay, The History of Bilston Town FC, which was particularly well received.

Anecdotes

"Based on the success of that, and the feedback received, we've commissioned Jay to write a second book," added Hodson, who has been chairman since 2009. He said this time the book would recall anecdotes, memories and moments from former and current players, management and supporters.

"We are looking for stories of the characters that played for or supported Bilston down the years and we want players, supporters, managers or committee members to recall their most memorable games, momentous occasions or cup runs.

"Young and old, local folk, anyone who has a story to tell relating to the club, we want to hear it,

"The aim is to obtain as many stories, anecdotes or memories as possible, compile and collate them, then publish them in a book. Some of the stories we have already received make fantastic, nostalgic reading."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"Young and old, local folk, anyone who has a story to tell relating to the club, we want to hear it"

The late 50s and 60 were arguably the club's boom time and Hodson is especially keen to get players from that era involved and hopefully those that played in the first round FA Cup clash with Halifax at Queen Street in 1968.

The Steelmen made the second round of the competition in 1972, when they were edged out 1-0 in a replay on home soil by Barnet.

"The late 50s and 60s were great times for the club," added Hodson. "Players such as Ron McDermott were legends for the club. He scored 76 goals in one season and that is still a record for the Birmingham Works/West Midlands League.

"The FA Cup matches against Halifax and Barnet were also great occasions. We lost 1-0 to Barnet with QPR waiting in round three.

"We also had a good period when Joe Jackson was here in the 90s and former Wolves player Steve Daley, who was once Britain's most expensive footballer, also managed us for a while.

"We formed a former players' association a few years ago and when we meet up the old players have always got a story to tell."

Email stories to either graham_hodson@hotmail.co.uk or bilstontownfcbook@

Club chairman Graham Hodson

Former Bilston Town manager Joe Jackson

A packed stand for an FA Cup game in November 1968

Bilston Town FC line up for a pre-season picture ahead of the 2003/04 campaign

The Bilston Town FC team in the 1958/59 season

Memories sought in new chapter for football club

Page 43

Thumbs-up for Cradley's latest team

SPORTS broadcaster Nigel Pearson has given the new-look Cradley side the thumbs-up.

Pearson, who is also part of the Heathens management, is backing the team to challenge for honours. All seven riders will be in Cradley Heath tomorrow, Friday, to meet fans and present the new race jacket at their season launch party.

The event takes place at the Liberal Club on Upper High Street and all money raised will go between the riders to help with their pre-season expenses.

Said Pearson: "I like the way the team has been put together. Our manager, Will Pottinger, has worked very hard on this with Gary Patchett and they've done a fine job. We've got a handy top end with Danny Ayres and Tom Perry, a solid middle order and I'm looking forward to seeing Joe Lawlor and Ryan Burton at reserve.

"I also think there's much more to come from Dan Greenwood, he's capable of a nine-point average at this level and I see no reason why he can't challenge Danny and Tom at the top of the side."

Pearson has also warned the Heathens not to underestimate reigning champions Birmingham who are chasing a third straight title.

"They are Cradley's biggest rivals right now," he said. "And I wouldn't rule them out, they have some very solid riders. But it's going to be an exciting season and I can see some exciting racing ahead. I certainly feel we can be up there challenging."

Doors open at 7pm on Friday and there will be a raffle, auction – and new team clothing will also be on sale for the first time. Heathens launch their National League campaign with a trip to Birmingham for their home meeting with King's Lynn on March 29 before heading back to Wolverhampton on Monday April 17.

Champions Brum set to give riders a chance to shine

BIRMINGHAM will stage their annual Press and Practice event on Wednesday March 15.

And the club have confirmed supporters will be welcome to come and watch the defending, back-to-back National League Champions going through their paces from 1pm.

Brummies team manager Graham Drury said: "Press and practice is always an enjoyable day for everyone involved and it's where it really hits you that the new season is just around the corner.

"We have always had a good turnout from supporters, press and sponsors alike and we look forward to welcoming as many people as possible again this year.

"It's a great opportunity for all of the supporters to catch up with each other as well as with the riders and it does get you in the mood for the new season.

"We're expecting another good turnout for the Fans Forum in the Main Grandstand at the stadium on the night too and the fans will get an insight into how our team have been spending their winters."

Coaches ensure tennis is child's play

Leon Smith with one of the youngsters

NEARLY 100 Birmingham tennis coaches were put through their paces at The Edgbaston Priory Club on Friday by the GB Davis Cup captain Leon Smith and Jonny Murray the 2012 Men's Doubles Wimbledon Champion, as part of the LTA's (Lawn Tennis Association) Tennis for Kids 2017 programme.

After success in 2016, which saw 13,200 children introduced to tennis, Tennis for Kids is returning for 2017 and will be bigger and better, with 20,000 places on the nationwide programme.

Tennis For Kids, in partnership with Highland Spring, was created to establish a tennis participation legacy, following Great Britain's historic Davis Cup triumph in 2015. Tennis for Kids aims to get 20,000 5-8 year olds who have never played tennis before, involved in the sport by offering a free 6 week introductory course. This is double the 2016 target of 10,000, which was smashed!

Speaking at the event Leon Smith said: "This is easily one of the best sessions we have run so far this year!"

If you would like your child to take part in a Tennis For Kids course bookings will be live from early April. Check the the LTA website (www.lta.org.uk) to book onto a session and a list of venues participating in the programme.

ALBION BEATEN AT OWN GAME

THE remarkable run was bound to end at some point.

On Saturday, Crystal Palace became the first team outside the top seven to win at The Hawthorns this season.

This defeat – as frustrating as it was – shouldn't detract from the brilliant campaign Albion are having. Oddly, it came in the first game all season the Baggies managed to have more than 50 per cent possession.

Dudley-born Wolves fan Sam Allardyce came to town and out-Pulised Tony Pulis.

His Palace team mirrors Albion's in many ways. Both sides played 4-2-3-1 with a big target man up front currently struggling for goals, both have combative central midfielders, and both have a big back-line.

Unsurprisingly then, it was a titanic battle full of big hits. Jonny Evans was bandaged up and referee Mike Jones played on after plenty of rough tackles on the edge of acceptability. The difference between the two sides came on the wings, where Allardyce had much more pace to play with.

Inside

Wilfried Zaha and Andros Townsend produced the two moments of brilliance that won the game, and they were by far the most dangerous players on the pitch.

Albion, meanwhile, desperately missed Matt Phillips and struggled to stretch their visitors.

Chris Brunt likes to swing the ball in from deep and the 32-year-old doesn't have the pace to get to the byline, while Nacer Chadli turned inside too often.

There was an unusual desire to keep possession in safe areas, rather than run at goal and commit the opposition.

Palace sat back and invited the Baggies on to them before attempting to break at speed. There was a directness to both goals that Pulis would have been proud of. With Gareth McAuley out of position, Yohan Cabaye had the quality to exploit the space at right-back left by the covering Craig Dawson, but it was still an impressive chest and finish from Zaha.

Townsend's goal was a disappointing one to concede. To be fair to Jonathan Leko, he will have been told to run at the Palace defence and use his trickery to get past them, and he lost the ball in the final third of the pitch.

But the 17-year-old showed his inexperience tracking back, an older player would have brought Townsend down and taken the yellow card. There are enough old heads in the squad who will put their arms around Leko, and hopefully he'll bounce back because there's no doubting his talent. It's not like the game was lost by a teenage substitute, the game was lost by the experienced players who failed to show up.

There wasn't the usual urgency, which will worry fans who suspect the season will fizzle out now 40 points has been reached, just like last season. Darren Fletcher and Jonny Evans are trying to change the mentality at the club, to one where survival is no longer enough, and those two – alongside Dawson and Jake Livermore – kept the tempo up.

Albion are still on course for their best-ever Premier League finish and it's worth remembering Palace spent more in January than the Baggies have all season. But some of the club's long-serving players need to take a leaf out of Fletcher and Evans's book.

Because it's not like it gets any easier. Albion's next three games are Everton, Arsenal, and Manchester United.

Boots are flying as Albion's Jake Livermore battles Yohan Cabaye during Saturday's match

Paddock polishes off Janik easily

LUKE Paddock outclassed Lukasz Janik in the main event of the BCB Promotions' No Guts No Glory show at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday as his movement and range of shots proved too much for his Polish opponent.

The 25-year-old couldn't find the stoppage he was searching for but he impressed on his way to a 60-54 landslide victory. Janik failed to throw a jab in the opening rounds and Paddock was able to break through his defence with ease, landing flush to the head and the body.

The 'black widow', Birmingham-born Willenhall-based boxer Lauren Johnson made her professional debut with a 40-35 triumph over Monika Antonik.

Johnson, who trains in Wednesbury, caught her opponent with a couple of clubbing hooks early on which was a sign of what was to come.

The 32-year-old kept the pressure on her Polish competitor who was backing off and trying to avoid the beating that Johnson was dishing out. In the final round Johnson landed with a combination of hooks and uppercuts which had Antonik in real trouble. Johnson scored a 40-35 victory with the last round being 10-8 in her favour. Meanwhile, Tipton's Ricky Summers took out his frustrations on opponent Remigijus Ziausys after a British title fight against Frank Buglioni fell through.

The 29-year-old worked the jab well and landed some punishing blows which Ziausys did well to take. Summers landed flush with a powerful left-right combination in the fifth but his Lithuanian opponent absorbed the damage and gave the Summers the rounds he needed in a 60-54 victory.

Elsewhere, Old Hill's Manny Zaber, 'Pac Man', was sharp from the outset as he got back to winning ways against Ricky Leach.

Ladies storm into semi-final of cup

ALBION ladies smashed 10 unanswered goals past Rugby Town Ladies to reach the semi-final of the Birmingham FA County Cup on Sunday.

Abi Cottam bagged five for Craig Nicholls' team, Olivia Mitcham scored a hat-trick, and there were further goals from Trina Greaves and Hazanna Parnell. Albion keeper Bec Thomas pulled off a fine penalty save in the opening seconds of the game at 0-0.

Albion's next match is at home to Leicester City Ladies in the Women's Premier League Northern Division this Sunday, March 12. The Baggies sit ninth in the 11-team league.

★★★

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